

Hafa Adai!

Traffic stop leads to a motorist's arrest. **PAGE 2**
High court vacates burglary sentence, remands to new judge. **PAGE 9**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

HANMI frets over fate of hotels with expiring leases

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The lease of five landmark hotels on Saipan is set to expire in four years, and the continued uncertainty over the fate of these leases worries the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

And in the years that the question has

been up in the air, what used to be a sure shot at another lease is no longer true, with many new players in the field that have changed the picture substantially.

For the record, the resorts that have expiring leases are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan,

See HANMI on **Page 4**

The Hyatt Regency Saipan and four other hotels on island are faced with possibly losing their lease to new bidders.

BEA CABRERA

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IN DISPUTE OVER CAPITAL HILL PROPERTY Senator sues ma's estate, siblings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is suing his own mother's estate and siblings over a disputed piece of land in Upper Capital Hill, Saipan.

Manglona, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, is suing Priscilla M. Torres, Thomas A. Manglona, and the estate of Bernadita A. Manglona for quiet title.

Paul Manglona is also suing his siblings Priscilla M. Torres and Thomas Manglona in their personal capacities for slander of title.

The senator also included as co-defendants unknown persons claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the 4,181-square-meter property.

As of yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Torres and Thomas Manglona.

The senator wants the Superior Court to declare him the fee simple owner of the property and that neither the estate of Bernadita Manglona

See SENATOR on **Page 4**



KOBAN STATION

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, House Speaker Ralph Demapan, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero lead the cutting of the ribbon during the opening of a police substation at the Manhoben Center in Chalan Kanoa on Friday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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INSIDE



LOCAL

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog got his first tour of the *Man'amko* Center.

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LOCAL

Tasty Burgers and Ribs is marking its first anniversary.

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WORLD

London police raise to 58 the number of deaths in a horrific inferno.

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Local

Torres to sit down with DPS chief and Rota director

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A very public feud between Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero and Rota resident director Eusebio Manglona in early June has forced Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to enter the fray.

Torres told reporters in an interview last Friday that he has called in Guerrero and Manglona and will be meeting with both soon.

"I decided to call both individuals in," said Torres. "I would be meeting with them sometime next week to resolve this issue and clarify once and for all because is-

sues like these can be resolved internally."

The meeting, which Torres said would be held here on Saipan, intends to resolve the issue between the two—to determine what has transpired and what is to be done from there.

"I have already communicated with both of them and both are willing to sit down and make things work. We will go from there," said Torres.

Torres said he wants to know what kind of support Manglona is asking for, as well as what kind of support the local municipality is obligated to do.

Manglona earlier expressed

dissatisfaction with Guerrero, complaining that the DPS chief failed to invite Rota to take part in many DPS events. He also claims that Guerrero has not acted on his request to deputize two Rota Mayor's Office employees, among other issues.

Guerrero did clarify that the two Rota Mayor's Office employees are not DPS employees and that deputizing them would violate the law.

Guerrero also mentioned that communication between DPS officers of both Saipan and Rota have been constant.

The exact date of their meeting with Torres has not been specified.

Traffic stop leads to a motorist's arrest for alleged drug possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The driver of a car who was pulled over in Chalan Kanoa on Wednesday night for a traffic violation allegedly yielded methamphetamine or "ice" and marijuana.

Jeffrey Cabrera Magofna, 35, jobless, was arrested for illegal possession of crystal meth and marijuana.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$50,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for June 22 at 9am.

The Office of the Public Defender was appointed as counsel for Magofna. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

A police officer was driving a marked police car last Wednesday at 11:04pm along Konsolacion Street by Moon Light Poker in Chalan Kanoa when she saw a sedan with no front license plate traveling west.

Dela Cruz activated her blue lights and approached the sedan, which then stopped in the parking lot of LF Restaurant across Moon Light Poker.

Magofna opened the door and the officer saw another man on the passenger seat.

The officer smelled a strong odor of marijuana from the inside of the car. The officer turned on her flashlight and observed a glass pipe located at the bottom on the left side of the driver's seat.

The officer also saw an

opened a pouch that contained baggies and syringes on the driver's chair.

Magofna stated he does not have a driver's license.

The officer procured the pouch that allegedly contained seven baggies with crystal-like substances, 32 empty baggies, and three syringes, and another pouch containing 11 baggies and \$70 in cash.

The crystal-like substance, which weighed 2.3 gross grams, later tested presumptive positive for the presence of meth.

During an inventory of the vehicle, police allegedly found a crumpled newspaper containing two green leafy plants inside the center console compartment. The plants were presumptive positive for the presence of marijuana.



BOOK DONATION TO PSS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Southern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District donated books to the Public School System. The books are titled *Apu and Isa Learn to Conserve (a story about conservation in Guahan)* and are produced by the company. In this photo are, from left to right, outreach agent Linda Reyes, vice chair Angelita Mendiola, Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, and Conservation associate Ursula Herrera.

Warrant issued anew vs OPA investigator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued Friday another bench warrant for the arrest of Office of the Public Auditor investigator Melissa H. Bauleong for failing to appear in court for a review hearing in connection with a civil lawsuit against her over a debt.

Camacho ordered Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero or any police officer to arrest Bauleong and bring her before the court.

Camacho said Bauleong may be released from custody upon posting a cash bail of \$400, with instruction to

appear in court at 9am on the next business day.

If she posts bail but fails to appear at the required time, the bail shall be forfeited, the judge said.

Camacho advised Bauleong that the posting of bail does not relieve her from the obligation to appear in court.

According to court records, Wells Fargo Financial Saipan Inc. filed a lawsuit in 2011 against Bauleong for allegedly not paying a \$3,742 debt plus interest.

Bauleong was arrested on the strength of a bench warrant last March for failing to appear at the hearing.

At the March 29, 2017, hearing, Bauleong appeared

under custody. Camacho then released her and ordered her to continue her biweekly payments of \$80 beginning April 14, 2017, to the office of attorney Michael Evangelista.

Evangelista is counsel for Wells Fargo and United Pacific Collection Agency.

At the March 29 hearing, Camacho ordered Bauleong to return in court for a review hearing on June 13, 2017.

At the June 13 hearing, only Evangelista appeared.

This prompted Camacho to order another bench warrant against Bauleong.

Camacho said the defendant had actual notice of the court's order of March 29 and is in contempt of the order.



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Kilili vows to fight for continued EPA funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As the Pacific Islands Environmental Conference ended, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) thanked Environmental Protection Agency Region IX Administrator Alexis Strauss and all his team for the agency's work in the Marianas.

And Sablan vowed to continue his work to maintain EPA funding—especially the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water programs that have brought over \$55 million to the Marianas, because of changes in the funding formula that Sablan helped achieve in 2009, his first year in office.

"The Environmental Protection Agency is one of the great federal partners for the Marianas," Sablan said. "From the cleanup of PCB contamination in Tanapag to the agency's work helping to close the Puerto Rico dump the Marianas has a cleaner, healthier environment today, thanks to EPA."

The congressman also vowed to do everything possible to maintain the EPA funding that the new Trump administration has proposed slashing. Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget also cuts 20 percent from the annual Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act grants that help the Marianas maintain its water and sewer systems. That could mean a loss of about \$1 million—funds that would have to be paid with CUC rate increases by every household and business in the Marianas.

"Congress provided \$2.1 million in direct funding to the Marianas in the current fiscal year, 2017," Sablan said. "President Trump has proposed cutting that by \$926,678 in fiscal 2018.

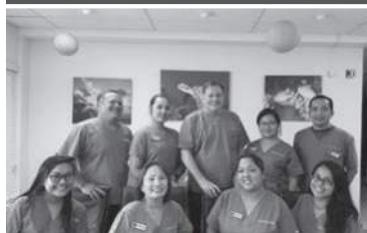
"That means, if the Commonwealth wants [the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality] to keep protecting our fragile island environment, CNMI taxpayers will have to come up with extra money to replace what President Trump is taking away.

"Of course," Sablan added,

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"many of us in Congress do not agree with the President and we will work to maintain the funding that goes through EPA to our local governments. But our work is more difficult when the White House does not want to help us protect the environment."

Trump has also proposed eliminating nationwide the Coastal Zone Management Program, which is key to protecting the sensitive shoreline of the Mariana Islands. That program is worth \$1,028,000 to the Marianas annually, money that would have to be replaced by Commonwealth taxpayers, if environmental safeguards and controls of coastal developments are to continue.

Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget also cuts 20 percent from the annual Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act grants that help the Marianas maintain its water and sewer systems. That could mean a loss of about \$1 million—funds that would have to be paid with CUC rate increases by every household and business in the Marianas.

"When I was first elected, the Safe Drinking and Clean Water funding set aside for the islands was 0.25 percent and 0.33 percent, respectively," Sablan explained. "Starting in 2010 we got those set-asides increased to 1.5 percent for both programs. As a result, the Marianas has received \$55 million in water and sewer project funds through fiscal year 2016. Without the formula change we would have gotten only about \$6 million.

"CUC ratepayers would have had to pay the \$49 million difference, if we had not

gotten the funding formula changed," Sablan said.

"Every time CUC has a ribbon cutting for a new waterline or signs a contract for a new improvement in our wastewater system I recommit myself to keeping CUC rates low by making sure that 10-fold funding increase we got, beginning in 2010 and every year after, continues." (PR)

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CHCC wants \$90M budget for new fiscal year

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. proposes a \$90-million budget for fiscal year 2018, a sum that House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) wants to "thoroughly review."

"The amount is quite significant, so we would thoroughly review their request to see what areas are critical and essential and try to bring the level down. One thing to note is their projected revenue has increased drastically," said Demapan, who is happy to

hear that the hospital is earning money.

CHCC's projected revenue for fiscal year 2018 is set at \$74 million, an 80-percent increase over the fiscal year 2017 projected revenue of \$41 million. According to CHCC officials, the corporation is set to meet its projected revenue.

"If your increase in revenue is 80 percent, first thing we need to do is try to work a budget inside that increase," said Demapan.

CHCC had proposed a budget of \$90.75 million for fiscal year 2018.

In fiscal year 2017, CHCC had proposed a budget of \$46

million, yet was only allocated less than \$2 million.

Of the \$90 million projected for next fiscal year, CHCC allocates a majority of it for personnel costs, a problem that has been plaguing the Commonwealth Health Center for years. Fifty-nine percent of the proposed \$90 million, which is \$53.6 million, is allocated just for personnel costs.

Some 14.3 percent of the proposed budget, or about \$13 million, is allocated for hospital supplies, while 11.2 percent or about \$10.2 million is allocated for capital assets such as property.

"It looks like they are

making great strides financially," said Demapan. "We have pretty much positioned CHCC in the best position they've been in for ages. It's just a matter of assuring that we move them forward in this successful trend and not come back down because when our healthcare services fail, it is really detrimental to our people," he said, adding that CHCC was appropriated \$7 million last year so it could pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Demapan also cited CHCC's loan with the Marianas Public Land Trust a few years ago.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres'

proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 is \$150.1 million, of which only \$594,933 is allocated to CHCC.

Stay safe this typhoon season

Typhoon season starts June 1 and preliminary forecasts are showing the potential for more tropical cyclone activities than in 2016. To help families stay safe, the American Red Cross is issuing six typhoon preparedness tips should a typhoon or tropical storm head toward the Marianas.

Here are the top six things you should do now to be ready for Typhoon Season 2017:

1. Talk with household members and create an evacuation plan. Be prepared to evacuate quickly and evacuate if told to do so.

2. Build an emergency kit with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for your infant, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, and emergency contact information.

3. Get access to radio broadcasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Purchase a battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA weather radio or simply dial 211.

4. Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or

invest in one-half inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows. Identify a place to store outdoor furniture, toys, tools and trash cans (away from stairs and exits) to prevent them from being moved by high winds and possibly hurting someone.

5. Be informed. Learn about your community's typhoon response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs and make plans for pets.

6. Download the free Red Cross Emergency App for expert guidance on what to do before, during and after typhoons as well as 34 other types of emergencies. All Red Cross apps can be found in smartphone app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by going to red-cross.org/apps.

If you already have a disaster kit, now is the time make sure the food and water is still

okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date. If an emergency plan already exists for your household, family members should talk about it again so everyone knows what to do and where to go if an emergency occurs. (PR)

New fish species found in New Caledonia

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Pierre and William Larue were boating on July 29, 2014, near Tombo Reef, close to Boulari Boat Pass, when they spotted a small silver fish floating on the water.

Pierre Larue took high-resolution photos straight away that he sent to a journalist, who then contacted Gérard Mou-Tham, an IRD (French Development Research Institute) fish scientist. The fish did not match any lagoon specimens, so another IRD researcher, Dominique Ponton, suggested it might be a hatchetfish of the Polyipnus genus, a deep-water fish.

When an article appeared in the press, Secretariat of the Pacific Community taxonomist Elodie Vourey examined the fish. While she was familiar with this fish family, she had never seen this species before and decided to write a description of the specimen, which she sent to Antony Scott

Harold, a hatchetfish expert and professor at College of Charleston in the United States who confirmed that it indeed was a new species.

The new fish, *Polyipnus laruei*, is named after yachters Pierre and William Larue who discovered it. After more than two years' work, the description of the new fish species has been officially approved by *Zoologische Anzeiger* scientific journal.

The description work was done by Elodie Vourey, Cyndie Dupoux, a technician managing invertebrate collections at the Paris Natural History Museum, and Antony Scott Harold.

The specimen was examined from every angle in challenging circumstances. It had to remain intact, because it was the only available specimen and would become the reference deposited at MNHN. SPC and IRD twice tried unsuccessfully to catch other specimens of the fish during missions in the area.

The first stage was to write a detailed description of the fish. X-rays were made of it to examine its morphology and the number of vertebrae. A genetic test was conducted on one of its fins and we compared our specimen with other fish of the same genus in the MNHN collection. The authors of the article chose to name the fish after its discoverers to acknowledge them and congratulate them on their curiosity.

Throughout the process, Pierre and William Larue were kept informed of progress. "It's been a wonderful adventure," they said. "We thought it was a known species and that we were just going to give you a specimen [...] it's amazing the fish caught the interest of scientists and it all led to a publication."

It was also an exciting adventure for Elodie. "I'm delighted to be able to give this new species William and Pierre's surname," she

said. "If it hadn't been for them, we could not have done this work. They had the presence of mind to take snapshots of the fish immediately, freeze it and contact some scientists. This team work has been a memorable experience of curiosity, sharing and enthusiasm."

The ocean is teeming with yet more unclassified species, particularly in the high seas and deep waters, and SPC and IRD have started a three-year endeavor to improve our knowledge of offshore ocean species off New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna under Biopelagos, a European Union-funded BEST 2.0 programme project.

Like Pierre and William Larue, boating enthusiasts can contribute to this important work. If you find a species that looks unusual to you during an outing, collect the specimen, take good photographs of it, place it in your esky and then freeze it. Then contact IRD or SPC scientists. (SPC)

HANMI

From Page 1

and Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh said the issue will have a great impact not only on the CNMI's hotel industry but also on its lone economic driver, the tourism industry.

"These five hotels approached the government and we have been doing so since May 26, 2016. We were sent a letter promising a new lease... but everything was still up in the air. And now things have changed. New players are now on board and the promise of lease is no longer a promise," she said.

In March 2016, former Public Lands secretary Pedro A. Tenorio came out with

two "alternative" lease agreements, which should undergo legislative approvals. First, by allowing the hotels to get an extension on a portion of public land that is currently being leased. Second, to allow the hotels to terminate their respective leases and apply for another long-term lease.

To date, DPL has enforced the request for proposal provision, which means DPL is now soliciting proposals for public lands upon expiration of existing leases in the CNMI. That's what it did with the Mariana Resort & Spa property.

DPL's position is to award leases based on competitive proposals received and evaluated by DPL and proposing the highest value to DPL.

Cavanagh characterized this as: "Even though an individual or business has been

here for 35 years and someone bids say, \$100 more, the latter wins. ... When you look back to what these businesses have done or contributed to the economy, that should mean something."

She pointed out that one hotel has stopped its renovation plans because of uncertainties with DPL.

"One of the major hotels already has a plan to do a \$25-million renovation in their property but because of the issues with DPL, they halted because there was no assurance that they will still get the lease and earn their money back," she said.

Mariana Resort & Spa lost its lease because DPL awarded the new lease to Imperial Pacific International Holdings.

"We have a product that is averaging 100 percent occu-

pancy so far this year and right now we have been improving facilities. We are changing floors even if we have less than a year in our lease. We have to make improvements. Anytime, either DPL or IPI can say 'we are moving in; and we are changing floors.' ... Hotels were here even when the economy was so low everyone was losing money left and right but we tend to forget the help that has happened prior to today."

Unlike the CW-1 issue, which is a federal government issue, Cavanagh said the lease of public lands is a local government issue.

"If nothing is done soon, four years is practically tomorrow. Four years is very short in terms of planning and developing for these hotels," she said.

SENATOR

From Page 1

na, Torres, nor Thomas Manglona have any legal rights or claims to it.

Paul Manglona is also asking for special damages. Because of Torres and Thomas Manglona's alleged illegal publication and filing of a fake "May 5 notice," he was forced to hire an attorney and file a lawsuit.

The complaint states that, by virtue of a deed of gift on July 11, 1985, Paul Manglona is the fee simple owner of the lot. He claims that Bernadita Manglona, Torres, and Thomas Manglona knew since 1985 of the transfer of property to Paul Manglona.

According to Dockter in the complaint, Paul Manglona remains the sole and rightful fee simple owner of the lot.

Dockter said that, on Aug. 4, 2016, the estate of Bernadita A. Manglona, through co-administrators Torres and Thomas Manglona, caused a letter to be filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

In the letter, Dockter said, the estate of Bernadita A. Manglona, through Torres and Thomas Manglona, claimed to be the owner of

the disputed lot.

Dockter said that, on April 27, 2017, Paul Manglona executed an agreement to lease the property for a term of 55 years to American CM Real Estate Development.

On May 4, 2017, American CM Real Estate Development entered into an assignment of lease with a third party and recorded the document at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Dockter said the very next day, May 5, Torres and Thomas Manglona caused a "notice fee title ownership" document to be filed and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office. Dockter said Torres and Thomas Manglona claimed to be the fee simple owners of the disputed property.

Torres and Thomas Manglona claimed ownership pursuant to the deed of gift executed by Prudencio T. Manglona and filed in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on Saipan and on Rota.

Dockter said the May 5 notice and the estate letter are defects on the title report of the disputed property and prevents Paul Manglona from fulfilling the terms to which he is bound under the agreement to lease.

Norita joins the inaugural IAFC leadership program

FAIRFAX, Va.—The International Association of Fire Chiefs announced Tuesday last week the participants accepted into the inaugural year of the IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program, or iDEL, among them the CNMI's own fire chief, Claudio Norita.

iDEL is a new program developed by the IAFC to bring together a group of current and future leaders to foster a diverse and inclusive leadership and workforce. The program aims to provide them with the tools necessary

to become national leaders in the fire and emergency service and the IAFC.

The fellows will meet for the first time next month at Fire-Rescue International in Charlotte, N.C. for a two-day session. The group plans to meet two to three times in person throughout the program. In between the in-person meetings, the group will communicate via KnowledgeNet, the IAFC's online community.

Throughout the course, the fellows will hear from experienced leaders at the IAFC and explore avenues in which they

can become leaders on the national stage and assist others to do the same.

Accepted into the 2017-2019 program are:

- Deputy Chief Geo Blackshire, Palo Alto (Calif.) Fire Department
- Battalion Chief Debbie Carpenter, Carrollton (Tex.) Fire Rescue
- Assistant Fire Chief Joe Dixon, Howard County (Md.) Fire & Rescue
- Battalion Chief Oscar Espinosa, Graham (Wash.) Fire & Rescue
- Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez, City of Miami Beach (Fla.) Fire Department
- Fire Chief Darnell Fulolum, DeKalb County (Ga.) Fire Rescue
- Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Shawn Hanson, Greater Naples (Fla.) Fire Rescue District
- Battalion Chief Radcliffe McKenzie, Central Pierce (Wash.) Fire & Rescue
- Battalion Chief Shirese Moore, Winston-Salem (N.C.) Fire Department
- Health and Safety Chief Officer R. Carlos Nava, Santa Fe (N.M.) Fire Department

who initiated the program, the group will focus on challenges that fire-service leaders are facing related to inclusiveness and diversity at the department level and the impact those challenges are having on the entire fire and emergency service.

"Our goal is to offer these current and future leaders a forum to learn from each other, explore and develop solutions to current and emerging challenges and share those ideas and solutions with the IAFC community. Further, we aim for this select group of individuals to grow and enhance as leaders and ambassadors of the IAFC." (PR)



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A home away from home

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog got his first chance to tour the *Man'amko* Center in Garapan last Wednesday, June 14, 2017, and he came away impressed that all the facilities are well kept, modern, and conducive to *man'amko* activities.

"This was my first time to go around the center and I am happy to see to all activities [going on]," Hocog said.

The center has a conference room, a gym, a movie room, and areas that accommodate a pool table, computers, reading, writing, and a big multi-purpose hall where programs,



The *Man'amko* Center's multi-purpose hall always sees different activities for the elderly.

BEA CABRERA



Some of the clients of the *Man'amko* Center have their picture taken by the pool table.

BEA CABRERA

activities, and games like bingo are held.

"There are so much going on," said Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, who helps run the center. "We see more participants during holidays and we keep adding more participants. This is also the reason why we have contin-

gency plans to make sure we have room and accommodate the growing population here."

The *Man'amko* Center has over a hundred registered elderly and averages 70 to 90 participants who go there everyday. It is open from 7am to 4pm. Some participants come on their own, some are dropped off, and some are fetched from their homes by the center's transportation service.

"Our objective is to provide opportunities for relaxation, socialization, and independence among the participants. They mingle, make friends, exercise, practice nutrition, learn about eating healthy," Manglona said.

There is also a weekly blood pressure tests and blood sugar tests.

"We make them have fun and take them out of isolation. We at the Office on Aging co-

ordinate home and community based services to help our seniors stay active and involved. We encourage them to stay involved in the community as well," Manglona said.

The *Man'amko* Center has scheduled activities every month but the center also gives the elderly the freedom to choose what kind of activity they want to engage in.

"Some of them want to play bingo, computer, exercise, watch television or play pool. Whatever they feel doing for that day, we encourage them to get up and just stay active. We do not want to tell them what to do. We want them to be independent and some of them develop a routine and sticks to it," Manglona added.

Right now, the center is planning to open the gate that separates the facility from the Sugar King Park.

"We heard that [Saipan] Mayor David M. Apatang has authorized the opening of the gate. We welcome that. We can now embed walking into our morning routine. The early participants who arrive at the center enjoy the early walk," Manglona said.

The *Man'amko* Center also gets its funds from solicitations and donations

"In the end, as long as we are doing what we are supposed to be doing—taking care of our elderly—we are going to continue to grow," Manglona said.

Even with the facilities the elderly enjoy now, there is always room for improvement.

"We are not done yet. This is just the beginning. We are continuously growing, making older stuff new. ...Our focus is also with the centers on Tinian and Rota."



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Head Start Policy Council Final Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2017 at 5:00p.m., at the Office of Systems of Care Hall Ina'guaya, 1st Floor Alexander Bldg., Oleai, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
3. Quorum
5. Adoption of Minutes
- a. June 1, 2017

II. Public Comments' Communications

1. State Board of Education
2. Office of Head Start
 - a. Head Start Supplemental Grant Funding Guidance Letter
 - b. Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Supplemental Grant Funding Guidance Letter
 - c. Head Start Under-Enrollment Letter
 - d. Approval to hire new Program Director

IV. Reports

1. Program
 - a. Director
 - b. Service Area Managers
2. Financial Status
3. Center /Community Representative

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

1. FY 2017Supplemental Grant Application and Narrative
 - a. Head Start
 - b. Early Head Start Child-Care Partnership

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmpss.org, several days of notice is required.

/s/ Ana Ada
Chairwoman

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.


COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Temporary closure of the Garapan Fishing Base Boat launching ramp

All boaters and frequent visitors to the Garapan Fishing Base are reminded that the fishing base boat launching ramp will be temporarily closed from today, June 19, to Friday, June 23 2017, to provide the Hawaiian Rock Products construction crew ample time to complete the paving of the trailer boat parking lot. Please avoid parking in the proposed paving area. For more information, contact the Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9834. (PR)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 19 and 21, from 9am to 4pm
- June 20 and 22, from 7am to 4pm
- June 23, from 7:30am to noon

The U.S. military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 21, from 2pm to 8pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators, monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Jury selection is cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panels "17AR" and "17AS" that the jury selection scheduled for today, June 19, 2017, at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A is cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact deputy clerk Novelyn Wania-Tenorio at the Superior Court at 236-9776. (PR)

Change in water service hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has changed the water service hours for customers along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road in As Lito and As Perdido. Due to the daily low tank levels caused by a decrease in water supply from the CUC water wells in Isley Field, customers in the affected areas will be receiving water service from 6am to 4pm daily. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook

page (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). (PR)

SHEFA now accepting applications

For all new, ongoing and returning applicants: The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2017. Application deadline is July 3, 2017, and deadline to submit all supporting documents is Sept. 30, 2017. Application and checklist can be downloaded from www.saipanshefa.net. For more information, visit the SHEFA website, email saipanshefa@gmail.com, or call the office directly at (670) 233-5995. Applications can be scanned and emailed, submitted to the SHEFA office, or faxed to (670) 235-5996. (PR)

SSH registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. (PR)

KHS registration

All parents and guardians of Kagman High School students are being informed that KHS is open for enrollment and accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your

registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from <https://goo.gl/x2KvcL>. (PR)

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan.

A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA outreach clinic on June 28, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm, to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA outreach clinic is located at the MH II Building, Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)

Comments sought on marine monument

The U.S. Department of the Interior secretary has been tasked by President Donald

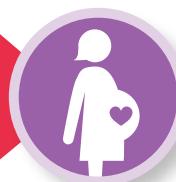
Trump under Executive Order 13792, issued on April 25, 2017, to conduct a review of national monuments. Public comments are being sought regarding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Deadline for comments is due July 10, 2017. To submit online comments, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/11/2017-09490/review-of-certain-national-monuments-established-since-1996-notice-of-opportunity-for-public-comment>. Click on the "Submit a Formal Comment" green box on the right column. (PR)

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- 3 If you think you may have Zika, **tell your health care provider**.



More information: marchofdimes.org/zika

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-026

Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from utility billing, financials and work order software developer firms, for the Purchase of Enterprise Resource Planning Solution (ERP) software and sustainment for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails assessment, training, project management, migration, application and implementation. Deliverables may include a quotation for equipment to support the project, collaborative and performance reporting.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-026 Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio B. Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-032

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting September 01, 2017 through August 30, 2020.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-032, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contract may be subject to the approval CPUC and will not be effective until receipt of such approval.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email antonio.castro@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

DPS opens police station in CK

The Department of Public Safety opened on Friday a police substation at the Manhoben Community Center in Chalan Kanoa as part of the administration's efforts to bring the community policing program back into the villages.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said the opening of the substation is one of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' objectives to take policing program to the community.

Guerrero said Chalan Kanoa is the third DPS police substation as they already opened one in Kagman, while the original police substation in Garapan still operates. Locally named a *koban* station, the term refers to a small neighborhood police station.

The plan is to open another *koban* in Garapan and another in San Antonio, Koblerville, Dandan, and San Roque, Guerrero said.

"As we move forward, as we get more officers, we are going to open more," he said, adding that opening of substations is contingent on the

availability of personnel.

Command control still resides at DPS Central but people can go to the substations and file complaints.

Guerrero said there will be a bike patrol at the Chalan Kanoa substation.

DPS is currently working on acquiring bicycles for its bike patrol in Chalan Kanoa and possibly for San Antonio.

Youth Affairs Office special assistant Shalaine Borja said they are looking forward to having the *koban* and the Youth Center in Chalan Kanoa.

Borja said this program can help keep children out of trouble.

According to DPS statistics in 2013, Chalan Kanoa and Susupe are the crime capitals of Saipan. Of the 272 burglary cases in that period, Chalan Kanoa was on top with 32.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who is from Precinct 2 that covers Chalan Kanoa, said he and House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) have always been supportive of the idea of having a *koban*

in the villages.

Sablan said the substation in Chalan Kanoa was realized because of the partnership between DPS and Karidat.

Sablan encouraged the youth and adults to take advantage of this *koban* and youth center.

"Let's build this partnership. Let's build this confidence and trust. Let us not be afraid of the police officers. Let's share information," he said.

Demapan said the *koban* will also serve as the lawmakers' eyes and ears in the village.

The speaker vowed to continue to fund this program not just for Precinct 2 but also for other precincts.

Demapan urged the residents and businesses in Chalan Kanoa to be more involved in making sure that the area will turn into a model village for other precincts.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, and Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogu-moro. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Slow water service for Beach Road, Middle Road, Gualo Rai is extended

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to update the public of the water service interruption for the Beach Road, Middle Road and Gualo Rai areas. The temporary water service interruption will be extended until tomorrow, June 20, 2017.

The purpose of the extended water interruption is to provide ample time for the proper installation of the damaged waterline and installation of a new 16-inch gate valve. The installation of the new valve is to ensure all affected customers will receive water



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WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2016 CUC Annual Water Quality Report is now available on-line!

Please go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CCR-2016.pdf> to view what contaminants were detected in your water in 2016 and to learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

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Yóómw 2016 CUC Annual Water Quality Report nge a llo on-line!

Uló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CCR-2016.pdf> bwe ubwe weri meta mil ngaw kka re schungi llól yóómw schaal llól 2016 me ubwe bawl ghi mataf reel úlúmómw schaal. Amataffal kkal nge eghi auscheya reel yáyál me ghatchúl yóómw schaal.

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Put fabot hânao para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CCR-2016.pdf> para u ma'atan hâfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2016 yan para un tung'u más put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manim-pottânti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuálidåt i hanum magimin.

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High court vacates burglary sentence, remands to new judge

The Supreme Court issued its opinion last Friday in *Commonwealth v. Jeffrey Jindawong Lizama*, 2017 MP 5. The high court, in a plurality opinion, vacated Jeffrey Lizama's sentence, finding the trial court failed to properly individualize Lizama's sentence and improperly denied Lizama's parole eligibility without offering sufficiently individualized justification. The high court also determined sentencing should be done by a new judge on remand. The press statement from the Judiciary did not identify the previous judge that handled Lizama's case.

This was the second time

SYP has its second mixer of 2017

The Saipan Young Professionals had its second quarter mixer hosted by IT&E last Saturday night at the Tribes Bar in Garapan.

The mixer enables SYP members to mingle with potential recruits. This event gives current members a chance to share with others what the organization is all about.

According to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce administrator and coordinator Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, the event is different from the previous quarters because outsiders were now charged an entrance fee of \$10 and SYP members were charged \$8.

According to Palec, the event was also an opportunity for SYP to earn funds.

The organization has future plans to start a mentoring program with middle schools and high schools all over the Commonwealth.

the Supreme Court considered Lizama's sentence for the underlying burglary offense. In 2015, the Supreme Court vacated and remanded Lizama's initial sentence, which was issued pursuant to a plea agreement. There, the Supreme Court reversed the trial court's judgment and remanded for further proceedings because the trial court lacked adequate factual basis to accept Lizama's guilty plea and failed to order a presentence investigation report.

On remand, the case was submitted to the same sentencing judge, and again, Lizama received the maximum sentence permitted under the stat-

ute after pleading guilty.

On March 17, 2016, Lizama appealed his second sentence on three grounds. He argued the trial court employed a mechanistic sentencing policy, failed to properly individualize his sentence, and failed to offer individual justification for the denial of parole. Lizama also asked the high court to remand the case to a new judge for sentencing if it found the trial court erred.

All three justices agreed Lizama's sentence should be vacated and sentencing should be assigned to a new judge on remand. However,

each offered a different reason for their decision. In the controlling opinion, authored by Associate Justice John A. Manglona, the high court considered the three factor *Woosley* test first used by the High Court in *Commonwealth v. Jin Song Lin*, 2016 MP 11, and determined the trial court did not employ a mechanistic sentencing policy. However, the court found the sentence should be vacated because the trial court failed to properly individualize Lizama's sentence and had impermissibly restricted Lizama's parole eligibility. The high court also found it

appropriate to direct the presiding judge of the Superior Court to assign sentencing to a new judge on remand in order to preserve the appearance of impartiality.

In the first concurrence, Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro agreed Lizama's sentence should be vacated and sentencing should be assigned to a new judge on remand. However, he concluded the first *Woosley* factor was met, and therefore the high court should find the trial court employed a mechanistic sentencing policy.

The second concurrence,

authored by Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, agreed with the controlling opinion that none of the *Woosley* factors were met, but argued the trial court had sufficiently considered Lizama's individual characteristics, and therefore the maximum sentence was, while harsh, properly individualized. However, Inos agreed the sentence should be vacated due to the denial of parole, and on remand, sentencing should be assigned to a new judge.

The high court's full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme16.html>. (*Saipan Tribune*)

THE LEGEND CONTINUES...

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Sending the right message to Russia, Trump

With its 98-2 vote to expand sanctions against Russia, the U.S. Senate has effectively served notice on two great powers in Washington: Russia, which may have to face new costs for its meddling in the 2016 U.S. election; and President Donald Trump, who will have to contend with congressional input on U.S. policy toward Russia.

The bill, which also strengthens penalties against Iran, would put into law sanctions that had been imposed by former President Barack Obama and not allow Trump to ease or lift them without congressional review. It also would allow new sanctions on state-owned entities in Russia, such as those which engage in "malicious cyber activity" or supply weapons to Syria.

At a separate hearing, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson signaled the administration's unhappiness with the impending Senate vote, which he argued would reduce its "flexibility" in reaching out to Russia. But Trump has only himself to blame. Ignoring Russia's aggressive conduct in Syria, Europe, and Afghanistan—not to mention inside U.S. computer servers—he has pushed for lifting sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Crimea, cyberattacks and human-rights violations. He and members of his administration have dissembled about their contacts with Russia during the campaign and dismissed the steadily expanding investigations into them.

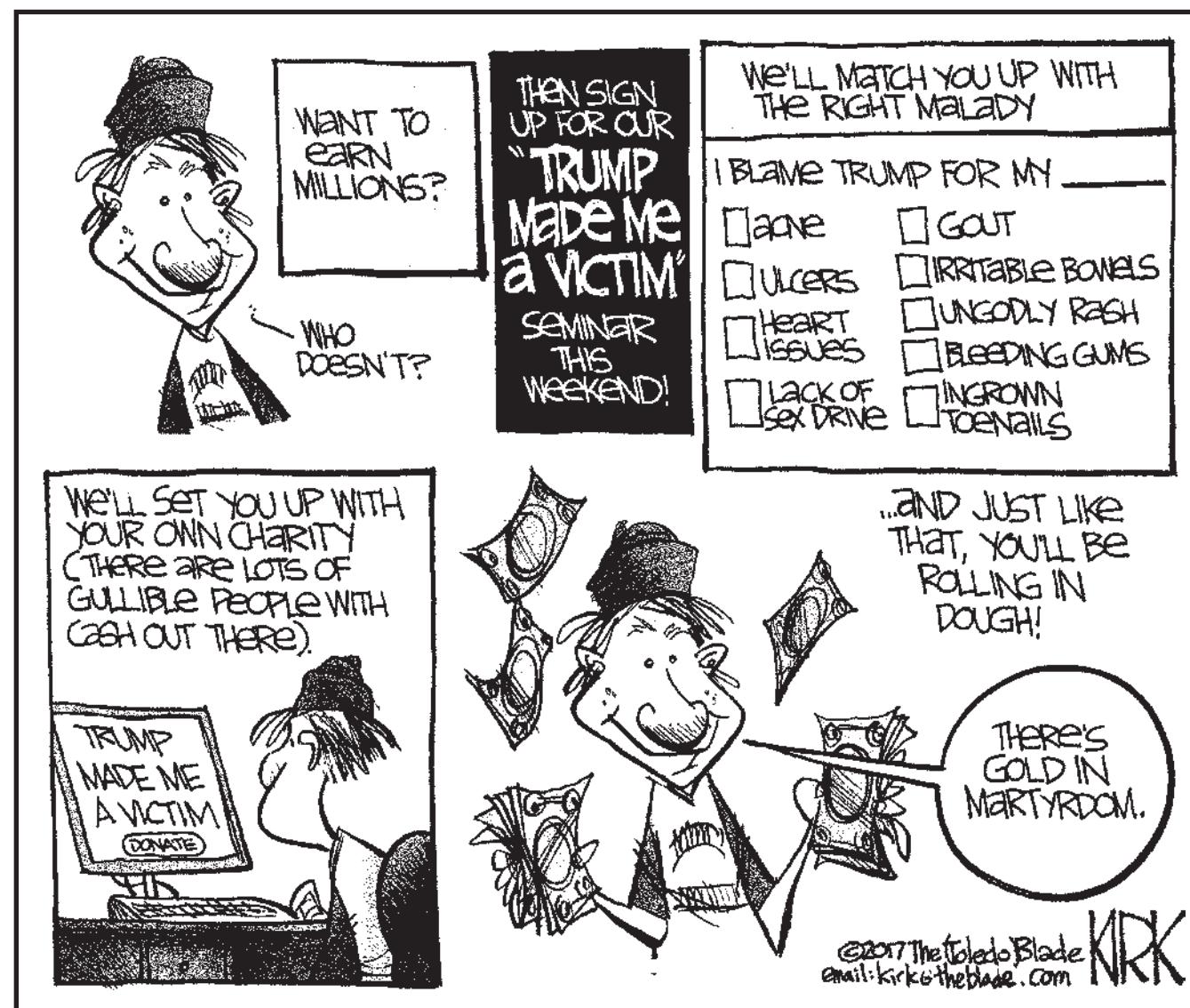
In an alternate universe—one in which someone other than Trump were president—pursuing better relations with Russia might make sense. Sanctions are best used sparingly, in concert with other nations and with a clear goal in mind. And while Congress certainly has a constitutional role to play in foreign relations, the ship of state sails most smoothly with one captain, not 535.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin is showing no signs of contrition or reform—and neither, for that matter, is Trump. From the Americas and Europe to the Middle East and Asia, his outbursts and their dissonance with both longstanding U.S. policies and his own cabinet's pronouncements are worrying allies and creating openings for adversaries. Under these circumstances, the Senate was right to step in.

There is a larger issue at stake as well, beyond Russia or Trump's relationship with Russia: Congress needs to reassert its prerogatives in foreign policy. In budget hearings, there were hopeful signs. Senators made clear that the administration's plans to downgrade the promotion of democracy and the provision of humanitarian aid—both areas of longstanding U.S. leadership—will face resistance. Congress can also reclaim its constitutional power to declare war by approving a clear authorization for the use of military force against Islamic State.

The lopsided vote in favor of the Senate bill suggests that a basis for a bipartisan policy on Russia still exists. In this polarized age, that's something on which the president should build.

(C)2017 BLOOMBERG NEWS



Tired games of political one-upmanship

You knew it was coming. You felt it with a sickening certainty the instant news of a mass shooting flashed out from Alexandria, Virginia. So it was disheartening, but hardly surprising, to hear certain conservatives reflexively blame Democrats and their so-called "hate speech" for the carnage.

It happened Wednesday morning. The quiet camaraderie of Republican lawmakers practicing for a charity baseball game against their Democratic colleagues was shattered by rifle shots from one James Hodgkinson of Belleville, Illinois. Police officers providing security returned fire.

When the shooting was done, five people were wounded, including two officers and Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), whose injuries were critical. Hodgkinson, a 66-year-old left-winger and former supporter of Bernie Sanders who was apparently motivated by hatred for Donald Trump and the GOP, was mortally wounded.

There was still blood on the ground when conservatives began laying the shooting at liberals' feet. Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) blamed "outrageous" Democratic rhetoric. (He later expressed regret for that comment.) The Infowars website cited a "hysterical anti-Trump narrative." Radio host Michael Savage spoke of a "constant drumbeat of hatred."

It was predictable because it's what we always do. Jerry Falwell blamed the ACLU for 9/11. Jane Fonda blamed Sarah Palin for the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

At some point, you'd think we'd learn that rhetoric—excluding that which explicitly or implicitly calls for violence—does not "cause" people to shoot, stab, or bomb. By that logic, you'd have to blame Fox "News" and other organs of the right for the Planned Parenthood shooting and the Atlanta Olympics bombing.

It makes about as much sense. You know who's to blame for this shooting? James Hodgkinson is.

Frankly, this sudden concern for the tenor of political discourse feels precious, even sanctimonious, given conservatives' history of invective and lies. Where was all this fretting last year when Donald Trump said "Second Amendment people" might stop Hillary Clinton? Where was it week before last, when Eric

By LEONARD PITTS JR.

Miami Herald

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.



Trump said Democrats are "not even people" to him?

The bottom line is that a president of unprecedented incompetence is being enabled by a Congress of criminal complicity in an agenda of frightful destructiveness. To see that and not say it loudly and emphatically would be an act of journalistic, political or civic malpractice. It would be un-American.

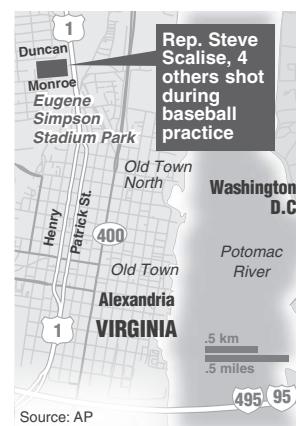
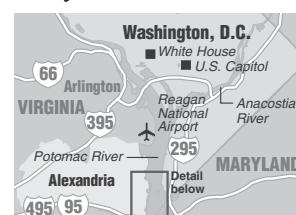
Not that liberals have any reason to feel smug about this. Taken in conjunction with a recent string of attacks on police officers, Wednesday's shooting suggests something as startling as it is troubling. Namely, that left-wing terrorism might be making a comeback.

It has been 40 years since the likes of the Symbionese Liberation Army and the Weathermen disappeared from view, and in those years domestic terrorism has been exclusively a phenomenon of the political right. That may be changing now. It's a deeply disturbing idea, suggesting as it does a nation ever faster pulling itself apart, a people riven by irreconcilable differences, a country that isn't even sure it wants to be a country anymore.

These tired games of political one-upmanship are too small for such a moment. This moment is for soul-searching, for considering who and what and even if we are, as Americans. It is for wondering what it means when baseball is not safe and being a Republican gets you shot. Nothing less than our national identity and ideals are at stake here.

A maniac shot up a ballfield Wednesday morning. Five people were hit.

Three hundred and twenty-five million were wounded.



Source: AP Graphic: Staff, TNS

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There's always baseball

Although it is easy to become a bit overwhelmed with the lousy local and national news, there's always baseball to provide some relief.

When I watch a baseball game, I forget all about CW-1 permits, the snafus at the new casino/hotel, the endless finger-pointing in Washington, D.C., or the MV *Luta* mess.

Baseball is our national pastime, and that's a perfect term for it. In fact, it's the only true American game (although basketball can also make such a claim). But baseball has been around since the 1850's, and it's the most perfect game ever.

Where else can you sit in the bleachers, enjoy a hotdog and beer, and watch a thrilling game? In my youth, I had to put up with cigar smoke, but no more of that now.

The miracle of 90 feet

The 90 feet refers to the distance between home plate and first base, and the distance is significant.

If you stop to think about it, how many times have we seen the runner's foot and the ball reach the base at the same time, or a squeaker of a double play?

With 90 feet separating the bases, it allows for the most exciting game possible. Because had the distance been 85 feet, the runners would all be safe; more than 90 feet and they would be out.

I don't know who decided on 90 feet, but it happened long ago when baseball was evolving into the game we have today. I do know one thing: it was not Abner Doubleday.

Doubleday has been given credit for inventing, or refining, the game of baseball. It's not true. Doubleday was a Union civil war general, and fought bravely at Gettysburg. He had nothing to do with baseball. It's just one of those odd myths that pop up in the vagaries of sports history and becomes legend.

As a kid living in upstate New York, I was a New York Yankees fan. I was lucky enough to be around when Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, and Yogi Berra dominated the game. They were my heroes, especially Mickey. He was special, that Mick.

I missed the golden age of the Yankees: Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Joe DiMaggio, but at least I can watch them play on YouTube. DiMaggio had the most beautiful, graceful swing ever.

The new Lou Gehrig

Now the Yankees have a new "Iron Horse." His name is Aaron Judge, and he is spectacular. Judge is a giant—six-foot-seven tall and weighs 280 lbs. He's built like a football linebacker, and yet he has rejuvenated the Yankees with



Aaron Judge

his electrifying home runs and spectacular catches in right field.

Even the great Derek Jeter had to agree: Aaron Judge is the best rookie who ever wore pinstripes. And, like Jeter, Aaron

Judge is a good and decent guy—highly respected by the fans and his teammates. Judge always has a smile and happily signs autographs for his fans before the game.

But it's Judge's raw power that causes jaws to drop. He just doesn't hit the ball, he crushes it. Judge has also inspired his teammates to also smack homers into the bleachers, and now the Yankees have a new "Murderer's Row."

Thank goodness for YouTube, because you can see Aaron Judge's astonishing at-bats, including his 495-foot homer. It's only a matter of time before he knocks one over the wall and into the parking lot. Make no mistake: Judge is the real deal, and is my new Yankee baseball hero. Aaron Judge is the player to watch these days, and no foolin'.

Russ Mason

As Teo, Saipan

Sinister intent

Three weeks ago, the Senate unanimously confirmed three remaining appointees of a five governing board of trustees for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The appointment of these trustees was mandated by the passage of H.B. 19-186, HD1, which was subsequently signed by Gov. Torres as Public Law 19-78 in January of this year.

Prior to the final passage of H.B. 19-186 and during the Senate and House public hearings, management top brass of CHC appeared, testifying forcefully against the passage of the bill. During their oral and written testimonies, witness after witness presented nothing favorable about the bill but a gloomy picture, including their own assessment of a possible federal receivership of CHC. The witnesses made claims of eminent federal intervention because passage of the bill would contravene federal grants conditional stipulations, including Medicaid and Medicare, grants of which the hospital is a beneficiary.

Nevertheless and in spite of CHC management's prognosis, the Senate in particular, went ahead and unanimously voted for the passage of H.B. 19-186, HD1. Five months

have lapsed since the bill became law and no one seems interested in submitting recommendations to strengthen the practical, organizational, and administrative and policy applications of the statute.

Interestingly, however, when the Senate finally confirmed the three remaining trustees for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. three weeks ago, there immediately appeared before the same body a proposed bill, initiated by CHC top brass, making significant targeted amendments to P.L. 19-78. Such amendments putatively support the maintenance of the status quo by artfully inserting language to hide their sinister intent. I contend that there might be a more nefarious motive behind the proposed amendments, and I exhort members of the Legislature to exercise prudence and file the bill.

I sincerely hope that both houses of the Legislature would patently recognize the inherent authority of the newly impaneled trustees, who just days ago were confirmed, and allow these professionals to begin their technical and deliberate reviews, not only on the management and operations of the hospital but the congruency of the statute itself.

The proper protocol would be for the current hospital management to submit their recommendations directly to the board of trustees. If, in their infinite judgment and fidelity to their fiduciary responsibility, they determine that changes are necessary, then they are the appropriate body to submit proposed amendments and other health related needs and concerns of the hospital to the Legislature.

Pre-empting the trustees to exercise their lawful discretionary judgment on matters that fall within their legal review is an affront to their integrity, especially before they even officially organize. This practice of undermining constituted authority for "self-preservation" is, in my opinion, a subversive effort that has no redeeming value but destruction. We have enough of this wasteful energy in government now. Spiritual teacher and author Eckhart Tolle puts it succinctly, "The mind is a super instrument if used rightly. Used wrongly, however, it becomes very destructive."

Daniel O. Quitugua

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Crying wolf

Lately, there have been a lot of cries about corruption but in all cases it was "after the fact," so we can't even call these people whistleblowers. The recent claims by a former DPS commissioner about corruption at DPS after being convicted, the corruption alleged by a man against the late Northern Island mayor after being caught and convicted and, more recently, the former Labor secretary is now alleging corruption after losing her job. I am not saying that corruption did or did not exist but if these people knew about the corruption, why did they wait before speaking up? I'm sure most people can deduce that all these people are just sour grapes—condoning and even supporting the alleged corrupt behavior if it's true as long as they could benefit.

I don't have anything against these people and, in fact, I viewed two of them as my friend but it is really sad they told on themselves, condoning what they may have viewed as corruption by not speaking up when it was taking place but now they are trying to reap vengeance to get back at the powers-that-be due to their predicament. If these allegations of corruption

had been brought forth before they got in trouble or lost their job, they would have surely been considered whistleblowers but that was not the case, making everything they say suspicious and even unbelievable.

There have even been cries that almost everyone on the Hill is corrupt, which is really ridiculous. Didn't we just make the point that no governor or AG is above the law by convicting a governor and even electing an "independent AG" to reassure that no politician would have influence over the AG? First of all, everyone will never be happy with a legal decision, be it the AG, a judge, or jury. There will always be someone on the opposing side to complain. But it is not right nor fair to imply corruption just because you didn't like the legal decision. Furthermore, I know for a fact after years of being a fellow member of Santa Soledad with the AG and knowing him before he was an AG that he is a man of unquestionable integrity. So to a large degree, all these cries of corruption are really nothing more than a phony wolf cry that needs to stop. It is easy to accuse someone of wrong

but proving it is totally another story—just ask any prosecutor. As for those crying corruption, they need to do it when the wolf is doing corrupting acts, not after he is gone.

We must first learn to trust the system to do its job and we must be cautious in our support for special interest groups and people who often "cry wolf" who just want to attract negative or adverse attention. I do respect all opinions, which is why this was not focused on the names or any single individual so I hope no one will take this personally. These people who are crying wolf after the fact are clearly not true whistleblowers as they would have us to believe. A true whistleblower would have exposed these alleged acts of corruption when they were happening, not after the fact. I am also not against any of these people crying corruption. I just think the whole truth needs to be exposed before and not after the fact.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 86° ▾ 75°

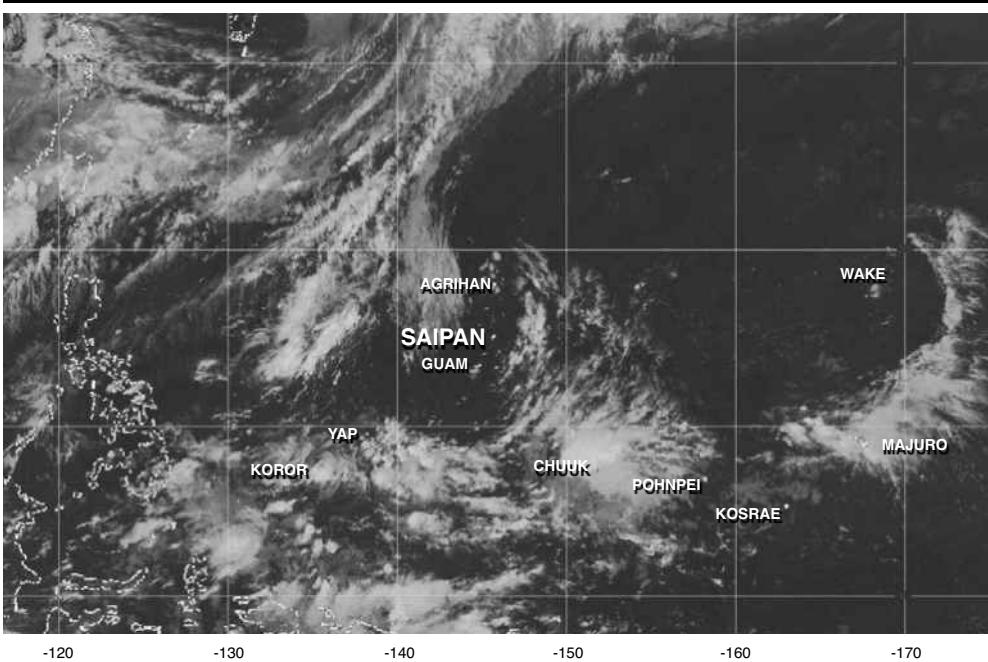
▲ 85° ▾ 75°

▲ 85° ▾ 76°

▲ 86° ▾ 76°

▲ 86° ▾ 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Overall a dry season trade-wind pattern continues, with the addition now of the Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) and some upper-level lows moving within it. These will provide periods of thunderstorm activity which, to some extent, can be timed. The timing within the inherited forecast looked quite reasonable, so just refreshed winds and waves. There is no change in philosophy and only minimal change in forecast values, just freshened and extended using the latest GFS data. Other than the possibility of lightning now, the Marianas still look to be free of weather related hazards this week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84 77 °F
Yap	Showers	86 72 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Rain	61 56 °F
Beijing	Rain	88 75 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 74 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	84 60 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	84 67 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	87 78 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	61 44 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
New York	Thunderstorms	80 70 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88 68 °F
Paris	Sunny	89 65 °F
Pusan	Sunny	95 66 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	89 66 °F
Salem	Sunny	86 57 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	89 62 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89 64 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	86 60 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	85 70 °F

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:			
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■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone			
■ Log on to the internet at			
■ www.nmicrimestoppers.net			

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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97	
9:43 AM	LOW TIDE	0.49	
3:30 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44	
9:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.63	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:18 AM	1:47 PM	-
Tuesday	2:03 AM	2:45 PM	-
Wednesday	2:52 AM	3:45 PM	-
Thursday	3:44 AM	4:48 PM	-
Friday	4:40 AM	5:45 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4, 5				TC3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				ZE581 10:10am 3:55pm Daily			
TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3, 4			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				TW307 8:05pm 1:35am+1 5, 6			
LJ652 4:45am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7							

Tasty Burger marks 1-year anniversary

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan executive chef Roland Fitz had always wanted to open a burger joint that focused on the beef.

Working with Fiesta F&B director Das Krishnan, Tasty Burgers and Ribs, operated by Fiesta Resort & Spa, opened on May 24, 2016. That quaint joint on the Paseo de Marianas was recently certified as an official certified Angus beef restaurant.

"My passion is serving the very best food. To serve

the very best food, you need the very best product, and certified Angus beef is the best product...Tasty Burgers and Ribs is proud to serve certified Angus beef band," said Fitz.

Jay Santos, general manager of Triple J Five Star Wholesale Food, which sells the CAB brand on island, said that Tasty Burgers and Ribs "is an excellent spot. ...They make an excellent burger. The ultimate Swiss cheese and avocado burgers are my personal

favorites. You won't find a better burger on island."

Other menu items include New York-style hotdogs, baby back ribs, curly fries, and a chef's cobb salad. Their anniversary special includes "Ultimate Swiss Mushroom Burger" served with iced tea and curly fries for only \$10.50.

Tasty Burgers and Ribs is located at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, and is open daily from 11:30am to 9:30pm. Call 233-7787 for reservations. (Saipan Tribune)



The Team Tasty Burgers and Ribs pose in front of the restaurant on the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tasty Burgers and Ribs' special anniversary burger is called "Ultimate Swiss" and the "Avocado Burger with Monterey Jack."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mallari flies with NJSDA team to Ala.

Jill Anne Mallari, a sixth grade student at Green Meadow School, joined the CNMI Team in their championship journey to Birmingham, Alabama, which will take place on June 20-23, 2017.

Mallari, a novice to the National Junior Speech and Debate Association national competition, won for Poetry during the regional competition last March, which qualified her to be at the national

competition. In Alabama, she will compete in Declamation and Prose events, as well.

Mallari left with her coach, Lorelisa Espiritu, and the rest of the CNMI team last Sunday. (Saipan Tribune)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-033 NMC SEWER LINE UPGRADE (S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement and upgrade of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of Northern Mariana College, Fina Sisu. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 750 LF of existing 8-inch ACP ± 20 LF of 10-inch force main, existing service lateral exploration work, 4-inch service lateral connections and clean-outs, installation of new concrete sewer manhole installation and abandonment of existing sewer manhole, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 200 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-033, NMC Sewer Line Upgrade", to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator - via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer - via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant - via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAR, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev.2

OEM-Assessment & Preventative Maintenance Services for the Diesel Engine Systems at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for OEM-Assessment & Preventative Maintenance Services (PMS) for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEMs) or their authorized licensees from which CUC intends to select the most responsive proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's requirements. The term for the initial contract is for a period of ONE (1) year which may be extended or renewed upon mutual agreement.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the CUC Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev. 2, OEM-Assessment & PMS for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than July 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be administered by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://mariansalabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 19, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org, Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAR, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Texas companies tie worker shortages to immigration fears

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Though construction is in high demand in Texas' booming capital city, Oscar Martinez's drywall company is suddenly struggling.

One-third of the approximately 20 employees Martinez uses to build new homes and commercial spaces have recently fled the state, spooked by a combination of a federal immigration crackdown by the Trump administration and a tough anti-“sanctuary cities” law approved last month by Texas’ Republican-controlled Legislature.

“I took a big hit since my workers started hearing crazy stories about being deported, and they panicked,” said Martinez, who relies on immigrants in the U.S. illegally for labor and has failed to find replacements for the physically grueling, precise work.

“The Americans I hire can’t last in this job more than half a day,” Martinez said.

Similar fears have sent shockwaves through many sectors of the U.S. economy. In most cases, demographers and economic experts say it’s too early to quantify the full impact of workforce shortages fueled by immigration fears, but anecdotal evidence is widespread.

“I’ve heard from growers, construction, and the service industry about a destabilization of the workforce in Texas and around the country,” said Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, a Washington-based immigrants’ rights advocacy



Construction workers work high atop a building under construction, Thursday, June 15, 2017, in Austin, Texas. AP

group. “It’s definitely happening more in states that are considering major immigration enforcement policies.”

The issue is particularly pronounced in Texas because it’s a conservative state and has one of the largest populations of immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally. Texas’ new law has exacerbated more general fears among immigrants about immigration policies becoming stricter nationwide under President Donald Trump.

Opponents have dubbed it the “show me your papers”

law because it allows police to ask about the immigration status of anyone they stop and requires them to turn over immigrants to U.S. immigration authorities upon request. Sheriffs and other police officials who don’t comply could see their departments fined and could personally face criminal charges and be booted from office. The law is aimed at so-called sanctuary cities—a term with no legal definition that loosely refers to jurisdictions where police have traditionally refrained from enforcing U.S. immigration law.

Fuentes said he “gets calls

The biggest industry to take a hit from the immigration crackdown is construction. About half of that industry’s workers are in the U.S. illegally, according to the immigrant rights organization Workers Defense Project.

“Projects are coming in late because we don’t have enough labor,” said Frank Fuentes, chairman of the U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association, based in Austin. “When paranoia hits this segment of the community, it truly affects the industry as a whole.”

Fuentes said he “gets calls

Can Amazon persuade enough people to buy fresh food online?

NEW YORK (AP)—Can Amazon, the company that persuaded people to buy ever more items online, win enough of them over to having their fresh groceries arrive in an Amazon box?

Going full throttle into groceries by announcing a \$13.7 billion deal for Whole Foods on Friday, Amazon gets the advantage of using the stores as mini-distribution hubs to deliver items to customers. But online delivery of groceries has been tough to pull off.

Some shoppers worry about the quality of their produce and say they’re rather pick their pears themselves.

Amazon, though its Prime benefits program has created strong loyalty, has a long way to go before it’s a default choice in groceries as it often is for books and electronics. And shoppers may be skittish about having Amazon take over one more element of their shopping experience.

“It’s funny. I was just ordering something on Amazon,” said Nick Yezierski, a hotel manager who was eating breakfast outside the Whole Foods flagship store in Austin, Texas. “But I don’t really buy any home items on Amazon, not anything I put in my body.”

Peter Belanger of Newington, Connecticut, who was shopping at a Whole

Foods in West Hartford, said he didn’t think he’d be interested in groceries online. “Most of us like to see what we’re buying, and it’s a good store, but we just wouldn’t buy online,” he said. “That’s something that doesn’t seem to right to me, actually.”

In Jackson, Mississippi, 59-year-old Deborah Sullivan says she does order some items online, but when it comes to clothes and food, she prefers to touch and feel the items. Her daughter Bethany Capels agrees and says she likes Whole Foods for the organic fruits she can serve her kids.

“Consumers want to know what they’re getting and putting in their bodies,” said Madeline Hurley, a senior analyst at market research firm IBISWorld. “Books are lot more homogenous,” she said, noting that a hardcover Harry Potter book is the same at Amazon—though Amazon can sell it at a lower price.

But shoppers could start to grow more comfortable buying, and Amazon sees the grocery business as a hot market because shoppers buy weekly or even more often for items they run out of. Walmart, which has the largest share of the U.S. grocery market, is ramping up its grocery services as a way to fuel online sales.

Republicans divided as Trump reverses some Obama Cuba policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump’s decision to reverse some Obama-era Cuba policies landed with a thud among many congressional Republicans who say the new approach surrenders a potentially lucrative market for American goods and services to competitors.

While anti-Castro conservatives hailed Trump’s partial roll-back of President Barack Obama’s detente, a number of other GOP lawmakers, particularly from farm states, criticized the change as misguided and isolationist. They urged him to ease barriers with Havana that will boost trade and create jobs in both countries.

Rep. Rick Crawford, R-Ark., said Trump’s shift is more than just a missed opportunity for rural America, which would benefit from greater access to Cuba’s agricultural import market. He said Trump’s policy may put

U.S. national security at risk as strategic competitors move to fill the vacuum the uncoupling could create.

“Further U.S. disengagement opens up opportunities for countries like Iran, Russia, North Korea and China to gain influence on an island 90 miles off our coast,” Crawford said.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a frequent critic of Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign, said in a statement that any policy change “that diminishes the ability of Americans to travel freely to Cuba is not in the best interests of the United States or the Cuban people.”

Flake has been among the most outspoken lawmakers opposed to rolling back Obama’s outreach to Havana. He’s warned that returning to a “get tough” policy hurts everyday Cubans whose livelihoods are increasingly rooted in travel and tourism.

Yet new moves will burden

the U.S. government with the complicated task of policing U.S. travel to Cuba to make sure there are no transactions with the military-linked conglomerate that runs much of the Cuban economy.

By restricting individual U.S. travel to Cuba, the new policy also risks cutting off a major source of income for Cuba’s private business sector, which the policy is intended to support. Under the expected changes, the U.S. will ban American financial transactions with the dozens of enterprises run by the military-linked corporation GAESA, which operates dozens of hotels, tour buses, restaurants and other facilities.

Among those with Trump as he announced the policy in Little Havana were Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, both Florida Republicans strongly opposed to Obama’s outreach.

Nation

Shooting of mentally ill man raises policing questions

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Joshua Barre's mental health was spiraling out of control before he grabbed two butcher knives and went outside. The 29-year-old black man with bipolar disorder had been off his medication and holed up at home, cycling through depression, anxiety and paranoia.

His mother pleaded for an intervention from Oklahoma's first line of defense for mental health: law enforcement. And Tulsa County deputies responded: Officers with the agency's mental crisis unit, trained in de-escalation techniques, went to Barre's house three times in the days before their final encounter on June 9.

This time, two deputies watched Barre walk down the street, barefoot and shirtless, clutching the pair of knives, but decided not to confront him.

Instead, they called for backup and followed him for nearly a mile, until he approached a store where they feared other people could have been in danger if he went in.

"Inexplicably, they corralled him to the convenience store, setting up a nightmare scenario," said Dan Smolen, the family's attorney.



In this May 18, 2017, file photo, Tiffany Crutcher, sister of Terence Crutcher, and Benjamin Crump speak during a press conference in Tulsa, Okla., after a not guilty verdict in the manslaughter trial of Betty Shelby, a white Oklahoma police officer who fatally shot Terence Crutcher, an unarmed black man.

lice in crisis intervention in roughly 2,700 communities since the late 1980s.

Deciding just when and how police should engage with the mentally ill is a risky give-and-take that's been hotly debated among experts for years. The real shame is that officers are the first responders in such situations, said Ron Honberg, a senior policy adviser at the alliance.

"We're asking police officers across the country to do the job ideally that trained mental health professionals should be doing," Honberg told The Associated Press.

Barre's family, their lawyer and others question why authorities didn't try less-lethal force far sooner, when officers and bystanders would have been in less danger. Couldn't they have kept him away from other people, used rubber bullets, or slowed him down with pepper spray?

But Green said the unpredictability of mentally ill people makes every encounter potentially hazardous. In Barre's case, they knew more about Barre's condition than they often do, and therefore "approached with some caution" that day.

A deputy tried to subdue Barre with a stun gun just outside the store, but it had no effect. Fearing for the customers'

safety, the deputies and a Tulsa police officer who had arrived as backup opened fire, killing him as he tried to enter the store.

Barre's killing prompted an immediate outcry in Tulsa. Only three weeks earlier, a white police officer was acquitted of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man last year. In 2015, a volunteer sheriff's deputy fatally shot an unarmed black man in a city street.

Beyond the dismally familiar questions about racial

bias in policing, Barre's death shows how mental health issues challenge even veteran law enforcers who are trained in de-escalation techniques.

Responding appropriately to mental crises has been a priority for the Tulsa sheriff's office since 1991, agency spokesman Justin Green said.

Four deputies detailed to the mental crisis unit receive special training in de-escalation, suicide prevention and handling combative people.

One of the deputies involved in Barre's death, William Ramsey, has been with the unit for nearly 20 years. They've made thousands of pickups in all that time. Until Friday, Green said, none of the pickups resulted in a death.

About one out of every four people killed in officer-involved shootings has a serious mental illness, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a Virginia-based nonprofit that has trained po-

Black gun owners worried by acquittal in Castile shooting

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gerry Martin isn't sure he will ever tell a police officer during a traffic stop that he has a concealed-weapon permit—and possibly a weapon—on him.

The acquittal of a Minnesota officer in the death of a licensed gun owner who volunteered that he had a gun seconds before being fatally shot during a traffic stop adds to the worries of African-American gun owners about how they are treated by police and society.

Acknowledging that they have a weapon, they said, can open them up to violence from police, who can then claim they feared for their lives simply because of the presence of a gun, even a legal one.

"As soon as you say, 'I'm a concealed carry holder. This is my license,' they automatically are reaching for their gun thinking you're going to draw

your gun on them, once again not realizing you're a good guy," said Martin, who lives in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Philando Castile was fatally shot by the officer July 6 in a St. Paul suburb seconds after he told the officer he was armed. Officer Jeronimo Yanez, who is Latino, was acquitted Friday of manslaughter and two lesser charges.

During the stop, Castile volunteered, "Sir, I have to tell you, I do have a firearm on me."

Yanez told Castile, "OK, don't reach for it then" and "Don't pull it out."

On the squad-car video, Castile can be heard saying, "I'm not pulling it out," as Yanez opened fire. Prosecutors said Castile's last words were, "I wasn't reaching for it."

The verdict "tells African-Americans across the country that they can be killed by police officers with impunity, even when they are follow-

ing the law," said Rep. Cedric Richmond, a Louisiana Democrat who is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The verdict also tells blacks that "the Second Amendment does not apply to them" because Castile "was honest with the officer about having a weapon in the car, and there is no evidence that he attempted to or intended to use the weapon against the officer," the Louisiana Democrat said.

Outside the courthouse, Castile's mother said Yanez got away with murder. Her son was wearing a seatbelt and in a car with his girlfriend and her then-4-year-old daughter when he was shot.

"I am so very, very, very ... disappointed in the system here in the state of Minnesota," Valerie Castile said.

Licensed gun owner and open-carry advocate Rick Ector of Detroit said stereotypes can cloud the minds of some of

ficers when dealing with black gun owners. Officers may have had previous encounters with people carrying guns illegally—especially young black men. And that experience can carry over, Ector said.

Once they find out that a black American has a gun permit, "they are not necessarily going to relax, but they now have an idea about your character," Ector said.

Phillip Smith, head of the National African American Gun Association, said police need additional training to remind them that Second Amendment rights apply to black gun owners as much as anyone else.

Like several similar cases, Castile's death was shared worldwide on social media. His girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, livestreamed the aftermath of the shooting on Facebook because, she said, she wanted to make sure the truth was known.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storms shatter homes, down trees in Nebraska and Iowa

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Residents in parts of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa were cleaning up Saturday after severe thunderstorms—some producing hurricane-force winds—shattered homes, tore down trees and left thousands without power. The National Weather Service in Valley, just west of Omaha, said storms Friday night blasted Omaha and surrounding areas with heavy rain, hail and wind gusts of nearly 90 mph. The service has not confirmed any tornadoes with the storm, but has sent investigators to northeastern Nebraska and Bellevue, just south of Omaha, where the most damage was reported. No serious injuries were reported as of Saturday morning. "Our office here in Valley recorded a gust up to 88 mph. That's hurricane force," said Weather Service meteorologist David Pearson. "We have unconfirmed reports of winds much higher. A lot of people with backyard equipment have reported winds around 100 mph." Hurricane-force winds are

those that exceed 74 mph.

3 charged in shooting at Chicago playground; 2 girls injured

CHICAGO (AP)—An 18-year-old and two juveniles have been charged with attempted murder in connection with a shooting that wounded two girls during a school picnic at a Chicago playground. The Chicago Police Department announced the charges Saturday night in a news release. Eighteen-year-old Raekwon Hudson, a 17-year-old male and a 16-year-old male are charged with attempted first degree murder, felony aggravated battery and misdemeanor criminal trespass to vehicles. Police say a 7-year-old girl was shot in the leg and a 13-year-old girl was shot in the hand outside Warren Elementary School on Friday. The injuries aren't considered life-threatening. The suspects were taken into custody Friday afternoon shortly after the shooting. Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Eddie Johnson had said Friday that police had recovered a vehicle and were questioning "persons of interest."

Asia

Navy stops search for 7 missing sailors after bodies found

YOKOSUKA, Japan

(AP)—The search for seven U.S. Navy sailors missing after their destroyer collided with a merchant ship in waters off Japan was called off Sunday after several bodies were found in the ship's flooded compartments, including sleeping quarters.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, addressed reporters at a Navy base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, but wouldn't say how many bodies were recovered, pending notification of next of kin.

The USS *Fitzgerald* sustained significant damage in the collision with the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal around 2:20 a.m. Saturday. Aucoin paid tribute to the crew's efforts to save their ship, saying they prevented it from sinking.

"You can't see most of the damage, the damage is mostly underneath the waterline, and it's a large gash near the keel of the ship so the water flow was tremendous, and so there



The damaged USS Fitzgerald is seen near the U.S. Naval base in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, after the U.S. destroyer collided with the Philippine-registered container ship ACX Crystal in the waters off the Izu Peninsula Saturday, June 17, 2017. AP

Rural Indian girls get discrimination-fighting tool: soccer

HUTUP, India (AP)—The aging bus meanders through the narrow streets of a tiny village in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, the smell of manure wafting through the air. A thick darkness blankets the neighborhood ahead of the early morning sunrise.

It's 5 a.m., and the young girls hop on the bus, one by one. They range in age from slightly older than toddlers to young women approaching their 20s. Some carry soccer balls.

They are heading to an immense empty field where they will hold their daily soccer practice, the younger ones eager to perfect their ball-handling skills while the teenagers act as coaches, earning money to pay for their education.

For all of the girls, soccer—or football, as they call it—is an opportunity for them to overcome deeply entrenched discrimination in their rural villages.

"We like to play football because there are only girls, some boys, but the teachers say if I have a problem, I can solve it with them," says 13-year-old Pratibha Kumari as she walks to her home after practice.

Pratibha was alluding to the biased views toward gender in India, particularly in rural areas like her village in Jharkhand. In India, 12 million adolescent girls—almost one in five—have experienced physical violence since the age

of 15, and 2.6 million of girls aged 15-19 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or a forced sexual act, according to statistics from UNICEF. In Jharkhand, six in 10 girls marry before the legal age of 18.

"This is the part of India no one in the cities of India really sees. But this is India—this is the norm," says Franz Gastler, founder of Yuwa, a non-profit organization teaching girls soccer. Gastler, who originally hails from Minnesota, started Yuwa in 2009 and added a school for girls in 2015. "Boys just harass girls here—it's the norm and older women have grown up being abused, so they are used to it."

Yuwa seeks to empower the girls by showing them they have the right to focus on their education instead of getting married and starting a family, and the right to choose their life path. For several of the girls, Yuwa has allowed them to travel outside of the area around their village for the first time. Some have taken trips around India or even to Spain for a tournament. Around 300 girls participate in the Yuwa soccer program and about 80 of those girls attend the Yuwa School for Girls, Gastler, says.

The organization, which has received a Nike Game Changers' award, also hosts workshops to educate about health and life skills, such as menstruation, and parent meetings.

Yuwa received more than \$200,000 in monetary donations and grants and in-kind donations in 2016 from public and private sponsors, according to the organization's financial records.

Before the soccer drills start at the early morning practice, the girls laugh, cheer and gossip to each other. Here, on the soccer field, their backgrounds don't define them. But as they share their stories, it's easy to see the obstacles they face.

Neeta Kumari, 17, is one of six children, five girls and one boy. (The vast majority of girls in Jharkhand State have the title of kumari, which means unmarried girl, until they are married and it changes.) Her parents kept having children until they finally had a boy. Her three older sisters got married at 16 and 17, she says, and never finished their education. Now they are mothers with little hope for their future. But they support Neeta's dream to become a journalist and her enthusiasm for soccer.

"I feel very good because my sisters are supporting me," she says.

Having changed out of their soccer shorts, cleats and striped socks, the girls arrive at the small cement school on the Yuwa campus in groups. Some arrive just as morning assembly starts, their hair still wet from washing it after practice.

wasn't a lot of time in those spaces that were open to the sea," he said. "And as you can see now the ship is still listing, so they had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic."

Much of the crew was asleep, he said, and one machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew members were severely damaged,

along with the captain's cabin. About 300 crew members were on board.

"His cabin was destroyed, he is lucky to be alive," Aucoin said of Cmdr. Bryce Benson, who was airlifted by helicopter from the ship after daybreak for medical treatment.

Navy divers found "a number of" bodies in the

ship Sunday, the Navy said, a day after it returned to the base in Yokosuka with the help of tug boats.

The victims might have killed by the impact of the crash or drowned in the flooding, said Navy spokesman Lt. Paul Newell, who led news media on a visit to get a first-hand look at the mangled vessel.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban storm Afghan police compound; 1 police dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says that at least one police officer has been killed after a group of attackers stormed the main police headquarters in eastern Paktia province. Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry, says a suicide car bomber first detonated his vehicle at the entrance and opened the way for other attackers to enter the compound. He says two of the attackers were shot by security forces and probably one more attacker is still resisting. He says three policemen have been wounded in the attack, which took place Sunday in Gardez, the provincial capital. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to the media. Mujahid says fighters are inside the police compound battling police.

Afghan soldier wounds 7 US soldiers in insider attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan soldier opened fire on American soldiers on Saturday, injuring at least seven, the U.S. military said. It was the second such insider attack by an Afghan soldier in the past week. Abdul Qahar Araam, spokesman for the 209th Army corps, confirmed that an insider attack took place at a camp in Mazar-e Sharif. Ara-

am said the soldiers returned fire and killed the attacker. Gen. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, also confirmed the attack. The Resolute Support mission announced on its Twitter feed that seven U.S. service members were wounded but said there were no U.S. fatalities. It said one Afghan soldier was killed and one wounded.

Pakistan arrests jail officials over escape of 2 militants

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A jail superintendent and 11 other officials were arrested in the wake of a jail break in which two militants who were on trial escaped from a high-security prison, Pakistani police said Saturday. The arrested officials were being questioned to determine how two members of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group escaped Wednesday from the jail in the port city of Karachi, senior police official Khawaja Naveed said. He alleged the two men escaped due to negligence of the jail staff. Naveed said efforts were under way to trace and capture the escapees who were arrested in 2013 over alleged links to terrorism. His comments came two days after counter-terrorism officials claimed the two militants shaved their beards in a court bathroom located on the jail premises and fled without being checked. Authorities in Pakistan conduct trials of high-profile militants inside jails due to security reasons.

World

58 people confirmed or presumed dead from London tower fire

LONDON (AP)—London police on Saturday raised to 58 the number of deaths either confirmed or presumed following the horrific inferno that turned the city's Grenfell Tower public housing block into a charred hulk.

Public anger is mounting as residents and neighbors demand answers for how the blaze early Wednesday spread so quickly and trapped so many of the tower's 600-odd residents. British media have reported that contractors installed a cheaper, less flame-resistant type of exterior paneling on the 24-story tower in a renovation that was completed just last year.

Police Commander Stuart Cundy said the number of 58 is based on reports from the public and may rise. It includes 30 deaths that already have been confirmed, and reports of people who are missing and presumed to have been killed. He says it will take weeks or longer to recover and identify all the dead at the building.

"Sadly, at this time there are 58 people who we have been told were in the Grenfell Tower on the night that are missing. And therefore, sadly, I have to assume that they are



The remains of Grenfell Tower stand in London, Saturday, June 17, 2017. Police Commander Stuart Cundy said Saturday it will take weeks or longer to recover and identify all the dead in the public housing block that was devastated by a fire early Wednesday. AP

dead," he said.

He said police would consider criminal prosecutions if there is evidence of wrongdoing and that the police investigation would include scrutiny of the renovation project at the tower, which experts believe

may have left the building more vulnerable to a catastrophic blaze.

Police have been struggling to come up with an authoritative list of who was in the building when the fire started, making it difficult to determine how many had died.

Cundy said there may have been other people in the tower who police are not aware of, and that could increase the death toll. He asked anyone who was in the tower and survived to contact police immediately.

Police say the harrowing search for remains had paused Friday because of safety con-

cerns at the blackened tower but has resumed. Cundy said emergency workers have now reached the top of the building.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, facing criticism for the government's handling of the disaster, met Saturday with 15 fire survivors invited to her official residence at 10 Downing Street. The group left after a meeting that lasted more than two hours but did not speak to reporters gathered outside.

The meeting is unlikely to quell complaints that May has been slow to reach out to fire survivors, despite her announcement of a \$6.4 million

emergency fund to help the displaced families.

May said after the meeting Saturday that there have been "huge frustrations" in the community as people tried to get information.

"Frankly, the support on the ground for families who needed help or basic information in the initial hours after this appalling disaster was not good enough," she said.

The identification of the victims is proving very difficult—which experts attribute to the extreme heat of the fire. British health authorities say that 19 fire survivors are still

being treated at London hospitals, and 10 of them remain in critical condition.

Police said they are using the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Standards to identify the deceased. This relies on dental records, fingerprints and DNA when possible and also features like tattoos or scars.

The tragedy cast a pall on the Trooping the Color festivities that mark the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. A solemn Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip held a minute of silence for the fire victims at the start of the procession Saturday.

Colombia: Bombing at mall kills three, including French woman

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A homemade bomb placed in a women's bathroom rocked one of the busiest shopping centers in Colombia's capital Saturday, killing three people, including a French woman, and wounding nine others.

Witnesses told of being evacuated from movie theaters and stores after the blast at the upscale Centro Andino in the heart of Bogota's tourist district. Ambulances and firetrucks rushed to the scene and the injured were taken to a hospital, where two later died.

Police said a potent explosive, possibly made of ammonium nitrate, had caused the destruction.

Mayor Enrique Penalosa called it a "cowardly terrorist bombing," and attention immediately focused on the National Liberation Army, which is the last rebel movement still active in Colombia. The group, known as the ELN, carried out a spate of recent attacks against mostly police targets in Bogota, but leaders denied involvement in the latest bombing.

President Juan Manuel Santos made a late-night visit to the shopping mall, where he strongly condemned the

attack but declined to speculate on who was behind it. He said he would meet with top security advisers Sunday before heading out on a previously-scheduled tour of Europe that includes a planned visit to France.

"The best answer to cowardly terrorism is to not let it unnerve us," he said. "The French know perfectly how to respond to these terrorist attacks and we Colombians too have the will not to let ourselves be intimidated."

Penalosa said the 25-year-old French victim, identified as Julie Huynh, had been in Bogota the past six months volunteering at a school in a poor neighborhood. He said she was preparing to return to France in the coming days in the company of her mother, who was with her in Bogota.

In a cruel irony, Huynh worked with a French-backed charity helping people displaced by Colombia's long conflict gain the skills and expertise needed to rebuild. A member of the group, Proyecto Sin Fronteras, declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press, but the group posted on its web page a black ribbon in memory of Huynh.

Tougher Trump line toward Cuba delights hardliners on island

HAVANA (AP)—President Donald Trump's announcement of a tougher line toward Cuba has delighted hardliners on the island, who say it reveals the long-held U.S. aim of imposing American will on Cuba and justifies their wariness toward Washington.

The president's speech to Cuban exiles in Miami has also dismayed moderates who were working with pro-engagement Americans but now fear association with a policy of open hostility toward the communist system could make them targets for repression.

Trump and the Cuban-American Congress members who helped design the new policy pledged on Friday that it would block the flow of U.S. cash toward military-linked enterprises and direct it toward independent businesses, with the long-term aim of overturning President Raul Castro's

government.

Members of Cuba's small but vibrant independent civil society say they fear the new policy will do more harm than good.

"Trump's become the independent business people's new enemy because—even though he's said he wants to help entrepreneurs—this new policy alienates entrepreneurs from the government," said Angel Rodriguez, a 27-year-old sociologist who works with the Catholic Church in entrepreneurship-training programs. "That could bring them under fire now, and they could find themselves much weaker."

Trump's new policy retains key aspects of Obama's reforms, leaving full embassies in Washington and Havana and letting U.S. cruise and airlines continue service to Cuba, although it will make travel harder by requiring most

Americans to come in groups and banning payments to military-linked businesses.

Former President Barack Obama's 2014 declaration of detente with Cuba prompted hundreds of islanders to launch media, entrepreneurship and cultural projects that were outside control of the state but within the bounds of law, unlike the directly confrontational tactics of Cuba's small dissident groups.

Some of those new groups came under intense pressure during detente, particularly after Obama's May 2016 visit to the island. Despite bitter criticism and personal attacks, most have continued to operate, many with a degree of support from U.S. individuals and foundations that would have been impossible before the reestablishment of diplomatic relations.

Many government officials and their supporters saw the

Obama policy as an attempt to lull Cuba into complacency and undermine the foundations of a communist system based in part of near-total control of virtually every aspect of society, from animal-rights groups to the film industry.

Trump's hostile language toward the Castro government and his literal onstage embrace of Cuban-American exiles and Cuban dissidents has unmasked the United States' true intentions toward Cuba and made it easier for the government to instill unity across Cuban society, pro-government figures said Saturday.

"Faced with your words, the Cuban people stand up and, their flag held high, sing their war anthem!" said a Facebook post by Jennifer Bello Martinez, the head of Cuba's official Federation of University Students and, at 25, the youngest member of the powerful Council of State.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Focus

For advocates of gay adoption, progress but also obstacles

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

With tens of thousands of children lingering in foster care across the United States, waiting for adoption, Illinois schoolteachers Kevin Neubert and Jim Gorey did their bit. What began with their offer to briefly care for a newborn foster child evolved within a few years into the adoption of that little boy and all four of his older siblings who also were in foster care.

The story of their two-dad, five-kid family exemplifies the potential for same-sex couples to help ease the perennial shortfall of adoptive homes for foster children. Yet, even as more gays and lesbians are adopting, there are efforts by state and federal politicians to protect faith-based adoption agencies that object to placing children in such families.

Sweeping new measures in Texas and South Dakota allow state-funded agencies to refuse to place children with unmarried or gay prospective parents because of religious objections. A bill passed last month in Alabama applies to agencies using private funds. A newly introduced bill in Congress would extend such provisions nationwide.

For those who support gay adoption, the entire phenomenon is very much a good news/bad news story. Gays and lesbians have ever-expanding opportunities to adopt, and a strong likelihood of finding community support if they do so. Yet bias against prospective gay adoptive parents remains pervasive, whether it's overt or subtle, and experts in the field believe that many thousands of gays and lesbians are dissuaded from adopting for fear of encountering such bias.

"Some of these agencies are quite clear that they don't work with certain sorts of people," said Currey Cook, who handles adoption and foster care issues for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal.

Some would-be gay adopters seek out other agencies, Cook said. "But some people think, 'I'm not going to risk being stigmatized and turned away, so I'm not going to step up at all.'"

There's no official, up-to-date count of gay and lesbian adoptive parents, but the number is on the rise.

Same-sex couples are nearly three times as likely to adopt as heterosexual couples, says Gary Gates, a specialist in

LGBT demography. His latest analysis of Census Bureau data indicates that in 2015, the year that same-sex marriage was legalized nationwide, there were 44,000 adopted children being raised by 28,000 same-sex couples. That number of children was double his estimate from 2013.

For some gays and lesbians, particularly those able to afford the \$20,000 to \$40,000 cost of a typical private adoption, the odds of success are good.

"If you have financial means, you can find providers who are welcoming and inclusive and help you through that process," said Ellen Kahn, who oversees youth and family programs for the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights group.

She says problems often arise when gays and lesbians seek the far less costly option of adopting out of foster care, given that many of the placements are handled by faith-based agencies under contract with child-welfare departments.

"We wouldn't have kids waiting if we had enough families seeking to adopt," Kahn said. "Yet the LGBT community is being pushed aside."

Kim Paglino, program director for the Donaldson Adoption Institute, says gays and lesbians can benefit from networking and careful research as they seek an agency to work with.

"It can take a while to find the right place," she said. "You have very clear messages from the agencies that are not interested in same-sex couples. Sometimes knowing where you shouldn't go is helpful."

Among the supportive agencies is Vermont-based Friends in Adoption. Its founder and director, Dawn Smith-Pliner, says she's heartened by the overall trends of LGBT adoption in the past decade, but now worries about a resurgence of "frantic phone calls" if, given recent political developments, more agencies feel emboldened to refuse placements with gays and lesbians.

"Do we have to go backward again before we go forward?" she asked.

Of the couples currently posting profiles on her agency's web site, expressing their yearning to adopt, about half are same-sex couples. Smith-Pliner says birth mothers are increasingly open to placing babies with such couples, once the agency raises it as an option.



This June 26, 2016 photo provided by the family shows Kevin Neubert, background center, and Jim Gorey with their adopted children, from left, Luke, Derek, Natalie, Zach, and Jacob at the Chicago Pride Parade. Following night classes to qualify as foster parents, Neubert and Gorey agreed in December 2011 to provide a temporary home for a newborn baby. A stay intended to last only for a few days was extended into several months, and Neubert and Gorey learned that the baby had four older siblings who were also in foster care. They eventually decided to adopt all five. AP

Don Dupont and Brian Hiller, music teachers in New York's Westchester County who married in 2011, decided they would try to adopt, and turned to Friends in Adoption at the recommendation of friends. They posted their profile online, stressing their love of music and love for each other, and it struck a chord with a pregnant woman in California's Napa County who chose them to provide an adoptive home for her child.

Hiller and Dupont were on hand, and welcomed warmly, at a Catholic hospital in Napa County when their son, Brandon, was born in 2015. They have arranged an open adoption that's intended to include annual visits with Brandon's mother and her family in California.

As for their home turf in New York, "We've been fully embraced by every person we've met," Dupont said.

In Illinois, Kevin Neubert and Jim Gorey opted to pursue adoption out of foster care after calculating that a private adoption might be too costly.

Following night classes to qualify as foster parents, they agreed in December 2011 to provide a temporary home for a newborn baby. A stay intended to last only for a few days was extended into several months, and Neubert and Gorey learned that the baby had four older siblings who were also in foster care.

Initially, the two men thought about trying to adopt three of the children, and

eventually decided to adopt all five, a process finalized in June 2014.

"Some people thought we were crazy, but everyone was supportive of keeping the kids together," Neubert said.

The youngest, Derek, is 5; the eldest, Luke, is 12. There are two other brothers, 10 and 7, and a middle sister aged 9.

Neubert and Gorey, who married in 2010 and live in the Chicago suburb of Naperville, said the family has enjoyed strong community support, though shopping trips could be a spectacle. "We didn't know if people were looking at us because we're two guys with kids, or because we had so many kids in tow," said Gorey.

The dads have coached their children on how to handle potentially awkward situations.

"If someone asks, 'Where's the mom?' Derek knows to say there are all different types of families, and in our family there are two dads, and no mom," Neubert said.

The path to adoption was bumpier for Dr. Christopher Harris, though by some measures he was an ideal candidate when he first pursued that goal 17 years ago in Nashville, Tennessee. He was a pediatrician and faculty member at Vanderbilt University, but he also was single and openly gay.

For more than a year, he worked with a church-affiliated adoption agency, taking parenting classes, submitting to home visits. Yet his application never progressed, and he finally deduced that it was be-

cause he was gay. He reached a similar dead end with a second agency, which took fees from him, and only later—when he pressed for an update—said it would not place children with single men.

"It was frustrating for me to get passed over," Harris said. "As a pediatrician, I look at the science and see there are no data that children raised by gay and lesbian parents don't do well."

He persisted, finally finding an agency that was able to connect him with a woman open to having her soon-to-be-born child adopted by a gay man. The baby, Maria, was born in November 2002, and adopted soon afterward by Harris.

Father and daughter now live in Los Angeles, where Maria has completed her first year of high school. During several summers, the two of them have attended a week-long gathering of LGBT families on Cape Cod. "It's very good for me and my daughter to be around families like ours," Harris said.

Those annual events on Cape Cod are organized by the Family Equality Council, a national group that supports LGBT families.

The council's chief policy officer, Denise Brogan-Kator, went to Texas to testify against the adoption-related bill there and was distressed by its passage.

"The bill is designed to allow agencies to turn qualified families away," she said.

There are more than 100,000 children in foster

care in the U.S. waiting to be adopted, and child welfare officials constantly struggle to find enough qualified adoptive families. Some jurisdictions—such as New York City and Los Angeles—have stepped up efforts to recruit gays and lesbians to adopt, but agencies that shun gay clients operate in most states.

Buckner International, a large agency based in Texas, specifies on its web site that applicants seeking to adopt should be heterosexual married couples or single adults who are not cohabiting with a partner.

Catholic Charities, which does child-welfare work across the country, says it seeks to ensure that the children it places in adoptive homes "enjoy the advantage of having a mother and a father who are married."

In some jurisdictions, authorities have said Catholic Charities must serve same-sex couples. Rather than comply, Catholic Charities shut down adoption services in Massachusetts, Illinois, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

While many faith-based agencies contend that children fare best in the home of a married father and mother, there's a growing body of research contending that children fare just as well in the homes of same-sex couples.

Initially, such research focused on lesbian couples. However, Charlotte Patterson, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia, said recent research suggests children adopted by gay male couples also are faring well. Indeed a 2014 study in Britain, led by University of Cambridge researchers, asserted that gay dads did better at parenting than lesbian and straight couples, likely because they faced more challenges en route to parenthood.

"It seems that those who successfully complete the adoption process become particularly committed parents," the researchers concluded.

Bethany Christian Services, which provides adoption and foster-care services in more than 30 states, says its religious principles preclude serving same-sex couples directly, but it has established procedures for referring them to LGBT-supportive agencies.

"When we meet with them, we're very respectful," said Bethany's president, Bill Blacquiere. "We want them to have all the rights any citizen has, including the right to be adoptive or foster parents."

Health & Fitness

A new Zika threat hovers with mosquito season on the horizon

By SHEFALI LUTHRA and CARMEN HEREDIA RODRIGUEZ

KAISER HEALTH NEWS/TNS

Zika, the mosquito-borne virus that triggered public health alarm bells last summer, has receded from the spotlight. But, experts say, expect the virus to pose a renewed threat this year.

How great of a threat? That's where it gets tricky.

No locally acquired cases of the virus have been reported in the United States this year. But as public health agencies gear up for mosquito season, uncertainty remains around what resources states may need and whether they will receive adequate federal support. In addition, researchers still have questions about how the virus works and its long-term effects. These forces could complicate efforts

to track outbreaks and provide accurate information about prevention and disease management.

"We still have much to learn. And much remains to be done," Lyle Petersen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, said last week at a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing.

Zika, which can cause birth defects if contracted by pregnant women, is primarily transmitted by a mosquito more commonly found in southern areas of the country such as the Gulf Coast. Texas, Florida, Southern California and Louisiana were all deemed high-risk areas last year. It hit the Americas in 2015 and reached the United States via infected travelers.

Last year, 5,102 people in the United States were reported with the disease—most contracted the virus while traveling in South and Central America. Sixty-four babies in the U.S. have been affected since the government began reporting outcomes last June. In rare cases, people who had not traveled abroad contracted Zika through a local mosquito or through sexual contact. Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, had 34,963 cases in 2016.

Again this year, determining if areas are experiencing active Zika transmission will require active surveillance and testing—both of mosquitoes and of people potentially exposed. Most people who contract the virus don't show visible symptoms.

Implementing that testing is challenging, experts said.

"Should you begin universal screenings in communities that are at risk?" asked Jeff Engel, executive director of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, which represents the specialists working in public health departments. "That is a tough resource question and probably is not feasible."

Last year, Congress appropriated \$1.1 billion toward fighting Zika. That was split among research, overseas response and state public health efforts. In April, the CDC warned state officials those federal dollars were running out. They are projected to last through the end of this fiscal year, in September.

Meanwhile, the White House budget released Tuesday proposes establishing an emergency fund to finance responses to outbreaks like Zika. But it also calls for a \$1.3 billion cut to the CDC and slashes \$838 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the agency behind vaccine development. So far, there has been little talk from Con-

gress of approving extra funding.

"Funding from Congress has been critical for our response to Zika. However, additional support will be needed," said Rick Bright, director of the federal Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at the hearing.

Some advocates also warn an ongoing hiring freeze at HHS could limit the agency's capacity to support a Zika response.

"Obviously we live in tough times when it comes to budget constraints," said Tom Skinner, a CDC spokesman. "And we have to find creative ways to do the best we can with what we're given."

If those constraints thwart surveillance efforts this year, experts warned, it will make it harder to know precisely when Zika hits. That blind spot puts women of childbearing age—for whom the virus' consequences are most dramatic—at greater risk. Reports highlight microcephaly as a significant consequence, but a burgeoning field of research suggests its impact on children may be broader, and may manifest years after a child is born.

"Without active surveillance—I'm worried we missed (many cases of) Zika last year and we'll miss Zika this year," said Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston. "If you're a woman of reproductive age, living on the Gulf Coast of the United States, or Arizona or Southern California, and you're pregnant or might be pregnant—you don't really know if Zika's in your area or not."

Texas, which experienced six cases of local Zika transmission last year, has identified counties it deems most

vulnerable. All pregnant women in those areas are advised to get Zika screenings as part of their routine prenatal care. The state works with the CDC to monitor how many pregnant women test positive and intends to monitor babies born to mothers who experienced infection.

But long-term follow-up will probably require more funding, noted Chris Van Deusen, a spokesman for Texas' Department of State Health Services. And leveraging prenatal care to push Zika testing has its own shortcomings. Many women most at risk are low-income, Van Deusen noted, and therefore less likely to interact with the health care system, or get prenatal care. Those people won't be tested or accounted for in the state's Zika tracking efforts.

That, Hotez said, compromises authorities' ability to discover Zika when it hits and then get the word out. "The only way we identify Zika outbreaks like (last year's) in South Florida is through serendipity," he said.

Testing is another concern. Current tests are unreliable in identifying Zika among patients previously infected with related viruses, such as dengue.

Limited resources could also strain the states' ability to process tests efficiently. Last year, the volume of patient samples sent for Zika testing overwhelmed laboratories in some affected areas, noted Kelly Wroblewski, director of infectious disease at the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

The surge translated to delays in determining if women had Zika. That could continue this year, since universal testing in affected areas is a burden that many of these labs don't have the resources to meet.

If the virus spreads, Wroblewski said, "we may find a capacity gap."



As public health agencies gear up for mosquito season, uncertainty remains around what resources states may need with regards to Zika and whether they will receive adequate federal support.

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Life & Style

Bill Cosby faces second trial in sexual assault case

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby, the comedian and actor once known as “America’s Dad” for his TV role as paternal Dr. Cliff Huxtable, avoided a conviction on Father’s Day weekend as a jury declared itself hopelessly deadlocked on charges he drugged and molested a woman more than a decade ago.

Prosecutors found themselves back to square one Saturday after the judge declared a mistrial following more than 52 hours of deliberations over six days.

Excoriated by the defense for charging Cosby in the first place, District Attorney Kevin Steele vowed to put him on trial a second time, saying accuser Andrea Constand supported the decision.

“She has shown such courage through this, and we are in awe of what she has done,” Steele said. “She’s entitled to a verdict in this case.”

Cosby’s team declared victory, however temporary.

By sowing doubt among one or more jurors, Cosby’s lawyers managed to overcome two years of unrelenting bad publicity for their client after the public release of his damaging testimony about drugs and sex, as well as a barrage of accusations from 60 women who came forward to accuse him of sexual assault.

Constand told jurors Cosby gave her pills that made her woozy and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay paralyzed on a couch, unable to tell him to stop. The 2004

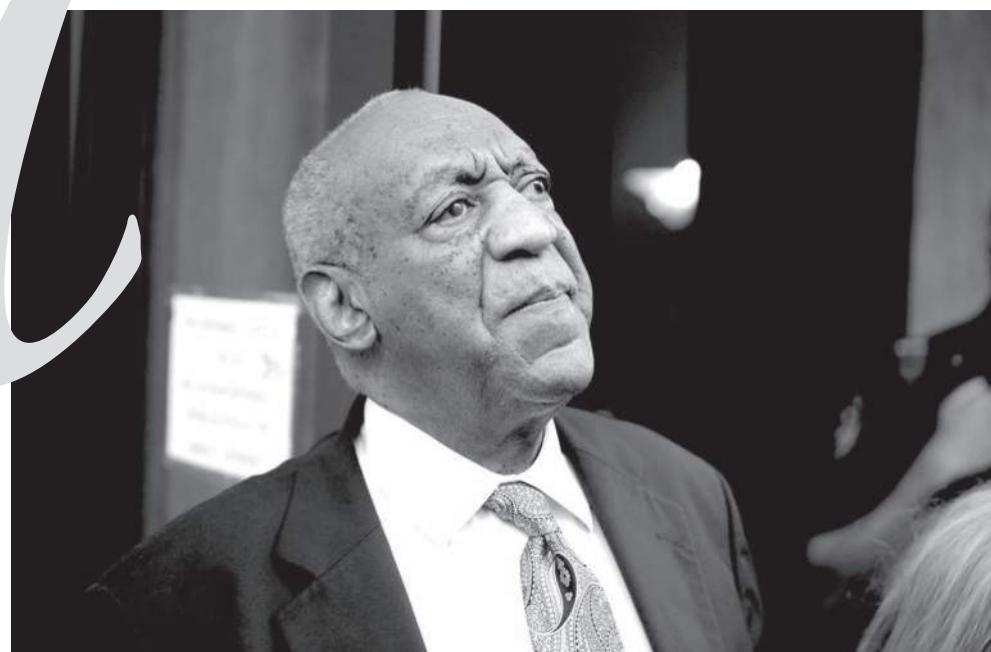
Coroner: Sleep apnea among causes of Carrie Fisher’s death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carrie Fisher died from sleep apnea and a combination of other factors, but investigators were not able to pinpoint an exact cause, coroner’s officials said Friday.

Among the factors that contributed to Fisher’s death was buildup of fatty tissue in the walls of her arteries, the Los Angeles County coroner’s office said in a news release late Friday. The release states that the “Star Wars” actress showed signs of having taken multiple drugs, but investigators could not determine whether they contributed to her death in December.

Her manner of death would be listed as undetermined, the agency said.

The agency did not immediately respond to a request for additional details about whether a full autopsy report and toxicology results were available.



Bill Cosby exits the Montgomery County Courthouse after a mistrial was declared in Norristown, Pa., Saturday, June 17, 2017. AP

encounter at Cosby’s suburban Philadelphia estate was the only one to result in criminal charges.

Constand is ready to go to trial again, said her lawyer, Dolores Troiani.

“She’s a very spiritual woman, she believes things happen for a purpose, and I think the purpose is ... it should encourage other women to come forward and have their day in court.”

Troiani acknowledged the difficulty of the case, given the passage of time and the impact of the alleged drugging on Constand’s ability to recall details.

The jury failed to reach a unanimous decision on any of the three counts against the comedian, ending the trial with-

out a verdict.

Cosby’s team immediately went on the attack.

The entertainer’s wife of 53 years, Camille, slammed prosecutors for bringing the case to court, calling Steele “heinously and exploitively ambitious” in a statement released after the trial. She also criticized the judge, the accuser’s lawyers and the media.

“How do I describe the judge? Overly arrogant, collaborating with the district attorney,” said her statement, which was tweeted by her husband and read by an associate of the public relations firm representing Cosby.

Cosby himself didn’t comment, remaining stoic as the judge declared a mistrial, but his spokesman Andrew Wyatt

declared the star’s “power is back. It has been restored.”

That seemed debatable.

Cosby’s career and good-guy image were already in tatters by the time his chief accuser took the witness stand, and the prosecution’s decision to pursue a second trial keeps him in legal limbo.

Cosby had broken barriers as the first black actor to star in a network show, “I Spy,” in the 1960s and, two decades later, created the top-ranked “Cosby Show.” He also found success with his “Fat Albert” animated TV show and starred in commercials for Jell-O pudding.

But it was Cosby’s reputation as a public moralist who urged young people to pull up their saggy pants and start act-

about this that is enlightening,” he said.

“I would tell you, from my perspective that there’s certainly no news that Carrie did drugs,” Todd Fisher said. He noted that his sister wrote extensively about her drug use,

and that many of the drugs she took were prescribed by doctors to try to treat her mental health conditions.

Fisher long battled drug addiction and mental illness. She said she smoked pot at 13, used LSD by 21 and was diagnosed as bipolar at 24. She was treated with electroshock therapy and medication.

“I am not shocked that part of her health was affected by drugs,” Todd Fisher said.

He said his sister’s heart condition was probably worsened by her smoking habit, as

well as the medications she took. “If you want to know what killed her, it’s all of it,” he said.

Todd Fisher said it was difficult to blame doctors who treated his sister because they were trying to help her.

“They were doing their best to cure a mental disorder. Can you really blame them?” Todd Fisher said. “Without her drugs, maybe she would have left long ago.”

Carrie Fisher made her feature film debut opposite Warren Beatty in the 1975 hit “Shampoo.” She also appeared in “Austin Powers,” “The Blues Brothers,” “Charlie’s Angels,” “Hannah and Her Sisters,” “Scream 3” and “When Harry Met Sally ...”

She will reprise her role as Leia Organa in the eighth installment of the core “Star Wars” franchise, “The Last Jedi,” which will be released in December.



Fisher

ing responsibly that prompted a federal judge to unseal portions of an explosive deposition he gave more than a decade ago as part of Constand’s civil lawsuit against him.

Under questioning from her lawyer, Cosby acknowledged that he had obtained several prescriptions for quaaludes in the 1970s for the purpose of offering the powerful sedative to women he wanted to have sex with.

Cosby also said he gave Constand three half-tablets of the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl to help her relax before what he insisted was a consensual sexual encounter at his home. Prosecutors suggested he drugged her with something stronger.

The jurors clearly struggled with their verdict, telling the judge on Thursday they were at impasse.

Judge Steven O’Neill instructed them to keep working toward a unanimous decision. On Saturday, they came back and told O’Neill they were hopelessly deadlocked.

The judge sought to comfort the jurors, at least one of whom fought back tears, calling their epic deliberation “one of the more courageous acts, one of the more selfless acts that I’ve seen in the justice system. ... I feel bad for all

Woman who stormed stage during ‘Julius Caesar’ is arrested

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York production of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” with a Trump-like character who is assassinated had a boisterous new scene this weekend: an activist who stormed the stage, yelling, “Do you want Trump to be assassinated?”

Police said Laura Loomer was arrested Friday evening during the play presented in Central Park by the city’s Public Theater. She was arrested, charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and released. She must appear in court at a later date to respond to the charges.

“I’m out of jail, but I’m not apologetic,” the 24-year-old conservative activist wrote on Twitter. “Thanks to everyone who is supporting me & condemning political violence.”

As she rushed to the stage, Loomer reportedly shouted, “Stop leftist violence!”

In the play, actor Gregg Henry resembles Donald Trump, with fluffy blondish hair, wearing a suit and a tie hanging below his belt. Sticking to Shakespeare’s script, he

of you, I really do.”

He reminded prosecutors and the defense that “a mistrial is neither vindication nor victory for anybody.”

It wasn’t immediately known how many jurors wanted to convict and how many wanted to acquit. None of the jurors commented after the trial ended and headed home to the Pittsburgh area, some 300 miles (480 kilometers) from the courthouse outside Philadelphia.

Former federal prosecutor David Weinstein said Cosby’s celebrity almost certainly played a role in the jury’s deliberations, perhaps to convince “two or three jurors that it’s impossible to convict Dr. Huxtable, to convict Fat Albert ... that he couldn’t have done this horrible thing.”

Constand, now 44, initially went to police about a year after she said Cosby assaulted her, but a prosecutor declared her case too weak to bring charges.

A decade later, another district attorney reopened the investigation after his lurid deposition became public, and dozens of women came forward against one of the most beloved stars in all of show business. Cosby was charged shortly before the statute of limitations was set to expire.

Woman who stormed stage during ‘Julius Caesar’ is arrested

is stabbed multiple times by a group of senators including his close friend Brutus.

Several audience members tried to shush Loomer by boozing. And the performance came to a brief stop.

She was not alone. Her supporters were in the audience, and one stood up and yelled,

“The blood of Steve Scalise is on your hands!”—referring to the Republican congressman who was shot and critically injured earlier this week by a lone gunman on a baseball field in Virginia; four others were injured before the shooter was killed by police.

In New York, a video of the Shakespeare play incident was released almost immediately after Friday’s disruption, apparently by the protesters who posted it online for all to see.

The Public Theater reacted on Twitter, saying that while they are “champions” of the First Amendment, Friday’s interruption of the performance was “driven by social media.”

The young woman belongs to an online, right-wing group called The Rebel Media.

Pain of racism can sting more when source is familiar

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timothy Welbeck remembers being 24 and at work venting to colleagues in his majority white office about how police had pulled him over 22 times in 19 months—a phenomenon known among African-Americans as “driving while black.”

A white female co-worker whom he’d known for four years listened to his story and replied: “You drive too fast.”

Welbeck felt betrayed. He considered her enough of a friend “to know that I don’t drive recklessly and I’m not a threat to law enforcement.”

“This idea that you could know me, I express a legitimate experience to you, and somehow I’m to blame. I would expect a stranger to do what she did,” said Welbeck, now 35, a lawyer and Temple University professor living in Philadelphia.

Racism in any form is painful enough for black Americans. But when prejudice comes from someone they trust, or consider an ally, it adds salt to the wound. Experts call this the stress of racial disappointment: When people who are expected to

understand injure minorities with offensive words or behavior.

Some blacks wrestled with this feeling June 2 when Bill Maher, host of the late-night cable television show “Real Time With Bill Maher,” jokingly referred to himself as a “house nigger” during an interview with a congressman.

To some, it seemed unlikely coming from Maher. His outspoken support of Black Lives Matter, and the way he railed against the racial undercurrent of the 2016 election that swept Donald Trump into the presidency, led them to consider Maher a reliable ally against racism.

The backlash was swift. Calls for Maher’s firing ricocheted across social media. A week later, Maher had several black guests appear on his show and he apologized, clearly aggrieved by his insensitivity.

“It doesn’t matter that it wasn’t said in malice if it brought back pain to people. That’s why I apologize freely,” Maher said during the June 9 episode.

“What made you think that it was cool to say that?” rapper/actor Ice Cube pointedly asked Maher during



In this June 9, 2017 file photo released by HBO, host Bill Maher, right, appears with professor and author Michael Eric Dyson during a broadcast of “Real Time with Bill Maher,” in Los Angeles. AP

one exchange.

“There was no thought put into it,” Maher replied.

“I think it’s a lot of guys out there who cross the line because they’re a little too familiar ... and they think they can cross the line,” Ice Cube continued. “They can’t.”

On his following show Friday, Maher interviewed Breitbart News editor-in-chief Alex Marlow. The conservative

website has been criticized for promoting racially offensive views.

Maher challenged Marlow after he accused the media of lying about Trump supporters as being “racist, despicable and deplorable.”

“But they have been,” Maher interrupted. “The president of the United States has retweeted white supremacists.”

The Maher conversations highlighted a common teachable moment between blacks and whites in American society, where conversations on race remain uneasy and, sometimes, familiarity blurs boundaries.

For blacks, this is far more upsetting than bigotry from someone who obviously lacks egalitarian racial views, said Alexis McGill Johnson, ex-

Yoko Ono, a co-producer on 'Imagine', gets writing credit

NEW YORK (AP)—Yoko Ono, who was previously credited as a co-producer on John Lennon’s “Imagine,” will earn a co-writing credit on the 1971 song.

David Israelite, the president and CEO of the National Music Publishers’ Association, said Wednesday at an event that Ono would earn the co-writing recognition on the

song 48 years after its release.

“Imagine” received the Centennial Song Award at the annual event by the organization. Israelite told Variety that the process of officially getting Ono the credit is underway.

Rolling Stone magazine ranked “Imagine” at No. 3 on its list of “The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time” in 2004.

Fetish drives man to badger his wife into smoking again

DEAR ABBY: I am a 28-year-old female. I recently married the most amazing man in the whole world, “Jeremy.” We connect, communicate, understand and love everything about each other. My only issue is, Jeremy has an obsession/fetish with women smoking cigarettes.

He fantasizes about me smoking all day, every day. I don’t smoke. I did for nine years, but quit five years ago (before I met him). I hated smoking—the smell, the waste of money, the example I was setting for my kids, the harm to my health and feeling out of breath.

Smoking has killed some of my relatives, and Jeremy knows it. But every day he keeps begging me to start up again. He tells me he’d do anything in the world to turn ME on, and doesn’t understand why I refuse to please him by smoking. He asks me to hold a cigarette, take pictures of myself smoking it and send them to him. He wants to smell it on my breath. He’s literally OBSESSED.

It really bothers me. I’ve bawled my eyes out in front of him telling him how much I don’t want to do it. He’ll feel bad and say he’ll stop, but starts back up again. I feel like it’s selfish that he wants me to put myself at risk to arouse him. He knows how I feel about every aspect of it.

We have spent hours and hours talking this out. We plan on having a baby. I asked him how he’d feel if I smoked with his

baby in my belly. He responded that I’d have to quit for the pregnancy.

I feel this is going to ruin our marriage. What should I do? Give in and start up with this horrible habit again to satisfy my husband?

LOST AND HURT IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR LOST AND HURT: I confess, your letter is a first. If Jeremy loved you, rather than risk your health for his sexual gratification, he would be seeking professional help for his fetish.

Smoking is not a harmless habit. If you take up smoking again, it will ruin your health and endanger the health of any children you might have with him. Do not give in. Do not risk cancer or lung disease to please him.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I attended my daughter’s high school graduation. It was an outdoor event, and to my chagrin, the whole crowd to our left was talking over the speakers, which made it impossible to hear. My children, who also could not hear, were mortified when I shushed the group very loudly. It made no difference, but the argument now is that I acted inappropriately.

I believe I was right, and I wish I had even stood up and



passer-by who tried to protect lawmaker Jo Cox from being stabbed and killed.

Academy Award-winner Olivia de Havilland, who turns 101 next month, also became a dame—as well as

the oldest woman to become a dame in this centenary year of the modern-day system. The “Gone with the Wind” actress was honored for services to drama.

Singer-songwriter Ed

Sheeran was honored for services to music and charity while Judy Murray, mother of tennis champion Andy Murray, was honored for her work for tennis, women in sports and charity.

British honors are awarded at New Year’s and on the queen’s official birthday in June. The honorees are actually chosen by civil servant committees based on nominations from the government and the public. In all, 1,109 people were on the queen’s Birthday Honors list Friday.

DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE**



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

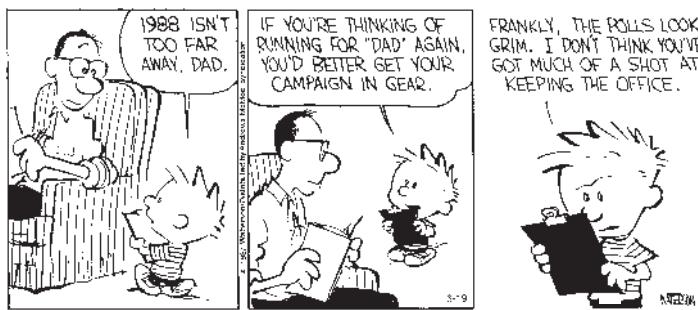
asked loudly for them to please be quiet. What do you think?
QUIET, PLEASE, IN NEW HAVEN

DEAR QUIET, PLEASE: I don’t think you did anything wrong. The individuals who were talking were rude not only to the speakers, but also to the audience members who wanted to hear what the speakers were saying without being distracted. Good for you for trying to get them to pipe down. I’m sorry they were so self-entitled that it didn’t work.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

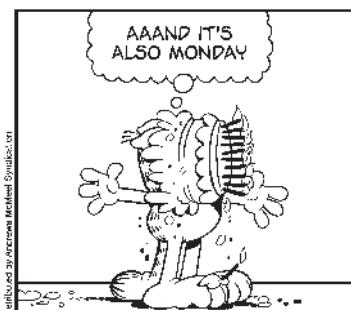


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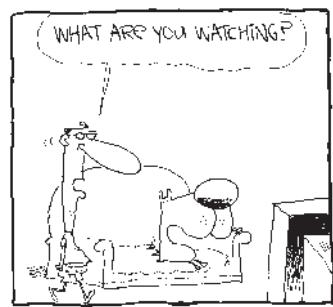
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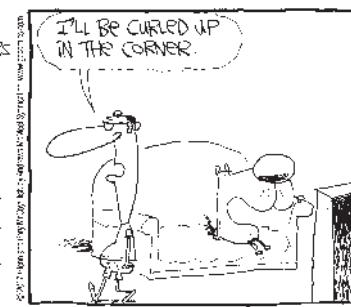
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

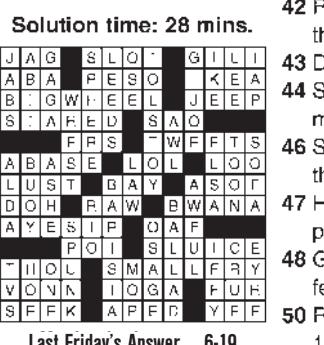


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Schlep
1 Hostels
5 Pistol
8 Monster
12 Hen pen
13 Computer key
14 Walked (on)
15 Jazzy James
16 HBO's — with Bill Maher
18 Mountain chain
20 Tarzan type
21 Male children
23 Madrid Mrs.
24 Leisure
28 Cabbage salad
31 Actress Tyler
32 Prepare to play, as a tape
34 Parched
35 Tennis score
37 Nautical

DOWN 41 Memory
method
42 Get
45 South Ameri-
can
49 Rest period
51 Bygone days
52 Idle of Monty Python
53 Spy org.
54 Low- calorie
55 Painter Magritte
56 Family
57 Dutch cheese
—
Solution time: 28 mins.



Last Friday's Answer 6-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Macklemore, 34; Zoe Saldana, 39; Jean Dujardin, 45; Paula Abdul, 55.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace and set your goals high. It's time to get organized and to bring about change. Added discipline combined with a little heart and soul will help you turn your current situation into a bountiful future. Make improvements to your position, lifestyle and home environment by taking care of unfinished business and channeling your energy into new beginnings. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 25, 34, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep moving, learning and discussing new possibilities. Make it a point to connect with relatives or old friends you haven't seen for a long time. You'll find out about enlightening family secrets. Personal growth is favored. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Use your basic instincts and listen to what your body is telling you. Think before you spend on the latest diet or fitness craze. Good clean living and exercising more will suffice. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Speak up and you will bring about change. Make a professional decision that will help you feel more certain about your future. Change is favored along with taking your future into your own hands. Present what you have to offer. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop vacillating and get the ball rolling. You'll have plenty of good ideas, but if you keep

them bottled up inside, you will never get ahead. Don't end up having regrets for never venturing down a path that you yearn to explore. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Actively search for opportunities to make positive changes to your life that will enhance your outlook and your choice of friends and associates. The people you align yourself with will make a difference to your status, position and reputation. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do your best to avoid criticism and interference.

The more you offer to do on your own, the easier it will be to get things done. Personal gains and satisfaction will come from hard work. Personal growth is highlighted. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get your personal paperwork in order. Set up meetings and discuss your plans. You stand to gain if you sort through matters in a timely manner. An interview or lesson will go well. Positive changes will result if you speak up. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Use your basic instincts and listen to what your body is telling you. Think before you spend on the latest diet or fitness craze. Good clean living and exercising more will suffice. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Speak up and you will bring about change. Make a professional decision that will

help you feel more certain about your future. Change is favored along with taking your future into your own hands. Present what you have to offer. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop vacillating and get the ball rolling. You'll have plenty of good ideas, but if you keep

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you want to make positive changes, stop talking and start doing. Working alongside someone who is competent and full of great ideas will help you get things done faster. Listening to good advice is advised. **★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay calm and look at every situation from the inside out. Overreacting is apparent, so have your facts straight and refrain from letting a conversation escalate into an argument. Offer suggestions and show compassion, but remain firm. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep busy. Take a course or make improvements at home that will help you avoid a rift with someone you love. Include someone you love in your plans or you may be faced with an unwanted or unpleasant reaction. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look inward and you'll come up with creative ideas that will help you transform the way you present yourself. Updating your appearance will set a new trend amongst your peers. Don't be afraid to be yourself. **★★★**

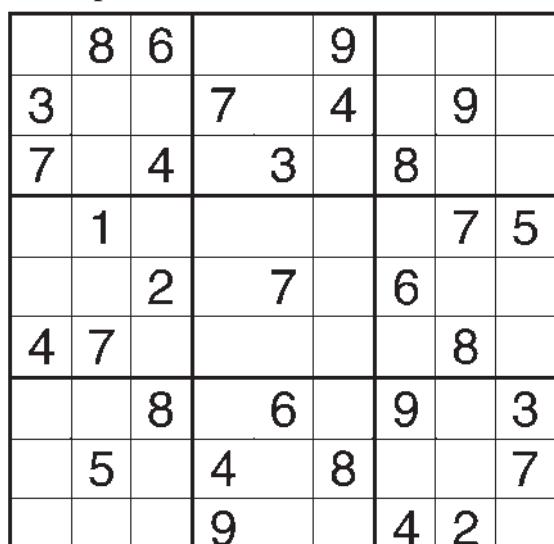
Birthday Baby: You are exciting, outgoing and entertaining. You are dedicated and goal-oriented.

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Conceptis Sudoku

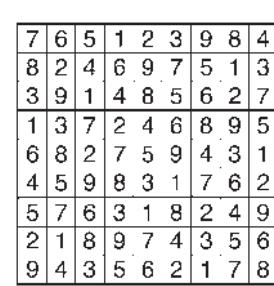
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



6/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S ALABAMIAN



Solution: 4 letters

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6/19

Accent, Acres, Alabama, Baseball, Beach, Wine, Beer, Buck, Buggy, Church, Cookouts, Coushatta, Culture, Family, Folks, Food, Fun, Games, Grill, Grits, Hunting, Kind, Kirfok, Lawns, Manners, Meemaw, Mobile, Muller, Toss, Muskogean, Native, Open, Orange, Outdoor, Peepaw, Pop, Pop, Potluck, Pride, Racing, Reunions, Royal, Sports, Sweet Tea, Talk, Tide, Varsity

Last Friday's Answer: Quang Ninh

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/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
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AP source: 76ers, Celtics agree on trade for No. 1 pick

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Philadelphia and Boston have agreed in principle on a trade where the 76ers would acquire the chance to take Markelle Fultz with the No. 1 pick in Thursday's NBA Draft, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The Celtics will get the No. 3 pick, plus an additional first-rounder in either 2018 or 2019, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday night because the trade has not been formally approved by the league. The agreement between the Celtics and 76ers was struck not long after Fultz worked out for Philadelphia on Saturday evening.

Once the trade goes through, Philadelphia will own the NBA's No. 1 selection for the second straight season.

Fultz—donning a Philadelphia cap as he arrived at the team's practice facility—visited the 76ers in a hastily arranged get-to-know-you session, with the workout and meeting with team officials on his itinerary. That visit was essentially the final hurdle to clear before Boston and Philadelphia could decide to actually consummate the trade.

"I don't really pay attention to everything that's going on," Fultz said. "I'm truly blessed to be in this position. Whatever happens, I'm looking forward to taking my talents to wherever I go."

Barring any other changes before Thursday, the first four



spots in this year's draft order would mirror the first-four from last year: Philadelphia at No. 1, the Los Angeles Lakers at No. 2, Boston at No. 3 and Phoenix at No. 4.

Fultz's rise to stardom has been rapid. In 2014, he was playing junior varsity basketball in high school. Barely three years later, he's almost certainly going to become the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft—and if he gets to start his pro career by calling Philadelphia his new home, he'll be living roughly a 2 1/2-hour drive from his hometown of Upper

Marlboro, Maryland.

"It would be pretty cool. Just being with a young team," Fultz said. "The upside of it would be crazy. I'm close to home, so a lot of my family can come out and just show love. This city has great fans."

The 6-foot-4 guard averaged 23.2 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.9 assists in 25 games during his lone college season at Washington, excelling on a team that finished 9-22 and lost its final 13 games. Fultz led the Pac-12 in scoring and finished No. 6 among all Division I players, and was the top

freshman scorer in the country.

Over the past 10 seasons, only two other freshmen had a better scoring average in college: Kevin Durant for Texas in 2006-07, and Michael Beasley for Kansas State in 2007-08.

Durant and Beasley were both No. 2 draft picks.

Fultz is apparently going to get taken one spot better.

"I'll do whatever it takes to

help any team I go to win," Fultz said.

Philadelphia had the No. 1 draft spot three previous times, taking Doug Collins in 1973, Allen Iverson in 1996 and Ben Simmons a year ago.

The 76ers have a top-three pick for the fourth straight year: No. 3 Joel Embiid in 2014, No. 3 Jahlil Okafor in 2015 and Simmons in 2016. But with Fultz, Philadel-

Oakland triumphant as parade celebrates Warriors title

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors twirled T-shirts over their heads and waved to the crowd from atop double-decker buses as blue and yellow confetti rained down on them during a parade Thursday to celebrate the team's latest championship.

Stephen Curry held the Larry O'Brien trophy, his wife and kids beside him. He got off his bus and hopped and shouted as he gave high fives to the crowd. NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant rode on a different bus with his mom.

"I was expecting more," coach Steve Kerr told KTVU-TV, joking about the size of the crowd.

Kerr said he was proud that the team "came back from the heartbreak of last year."

The Warriors blew a 3-1 lead in the Finals last year and lost the title to the Cleveland Cavaliers after posting the best regular-sea-

son record in NBA history.

The Warriors went 15-1 in this year's postseason, with sweeps in the first three rounds before beating LeBron James and the Cavaliers in five games in the Finals.

"We've overcome a lot of doubts," said Tulio Zelada, 28, a San Francisco resident who attended the parade. He described himself as a Warriors fan since elementary school.

The parade wound through downtown Oakland, where fans in Warriors shirts and hats cheered their favorite players.

Oakland recently learned it's losing one of its other beloved teams, the Raiders, to Las Vegas, and the city is still reeling from a police scandal and mourning a deadly warehouse fire. The Warriors are also headed to San Francisco, where they broke ground this year on a new arena slated to open in 2019.

"It's a bittersweet moment today," said Carolina Gallegos, 32, an Oakland resident. Sheldon Glasgow, who has been living in Oakland for 10 years, said he wasn't angry the Warriors were moving. Glasgow held posters of Durant.

"It's still in the Bay," he said. "No matter where they go, it's still in the Golden State."

Markelle Fultz, center, speaks with reporters after his private workout with the Los Angeles Lakers at NBA basketball team's training complex Thursday, June 15, 2017, in El Segundo, Calif. (AP)

phia—which has asked its fans to endure some very dismal stretches and "Trust The Process" for the past few years—would likely expect to turn a real corner toward respectability again.

Philadelphia went 28-54 this past season, after winning 19, 18 and 10 games respectively in the previous three seasons.

Last season's improved win total came with Okafor (50), Embiid (31) and Simmons (0) combining for 81 appearances, as Philadelphia's trend of being snakebitten by injuries continued. Embiid and Dario Saric will finish in the top three when rookie of the year results get announced on June 26, and Simmons is expected to be ready for next season after recovering from foot surgery.

Embiid posted a photo on Saturday of he and Saric standing in front of a locker—already bearing Fultz's name.

"Embiid, he and I have been talking before when I was in college," Fultz said. "He's a cool guy. He's giving me tips and pointers and he's pretty funny, so when I saw that it was pretty cool and pretty funny. I'm pretty happy that the players here want me to come here."

NBA BRIEFS

Lonzo Ball pokes fun at his father in new commercial

Former UCLA star Lonzo Ball pokes fun at his dad's outspoken nature in a commercial released in advance of Father's Day and next week's NBA Draft. The Foot Locker commercial begins with likely lottery picks Jonathan Isaac, De'Aaron Fox and Jayson Tatum discussing examples of how their dads have supported them. Then it shows Ball saying

"of course there's that big day when your dad berates your high school coach in front of an entire crowd for not getting you enough touches." Later in the commercial, Ball references LaVar Ball's debates with ESPN's Stephen A. Smith and proclamations that Lonzo already is better than 2014-15 and 2015-16 NBA MVP Stephen Curry. Ball is expected to be one of the top picks in the June 22 draft in Brooklyn, New York. (AP)

Pistons' Caldwell-Pope gets probation in March traffic stop

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Pistons guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has been sentenced to a year of probation in a March traffic stop in suburban Detroit. The Detroit Free Press reports Caldwell-Pope learned his punishment on Wednesday in a Rochester Hills courtroom after pleading guilty to allowing a person to drive under the influence. A charge of operating while intoxicated was dismissed. Caldwell-Pope was arrested on

suspicion of drunken driving after police say he was spotted going about 45 mph (72 kilometers per hour) in a 25 mph (40 kph) zone about 2:50 a.m. March 29 in Auburn Hills. He was arrested after a field sobriety test. A further test showed he had a blood alcohol level of 0.08 percent. Caldwell-Pope continued to play for the team last season and is a restricted free agent.

Report: West intrigued at joining Clippers front office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hall of Famer Jerry West is leaving his job as an executive board member with the NBA champion Golden State Warriors and is expected to take a similar role with the Los Angeles Clippers. Warriors general manager Bob Myers said to NBC Sports Bay Area during Thursday's victory parade festivities, "Jerry West, gone." Myers had said last week he would have a discussion with West after the season, which ended in Monday's Game 5 against Cleveland. The 79-year-old West told ESPN he is intrigued at the prospect of working for Clippers owner Steve Ballmer, whom he calls "a winner." West said he would like to help Doc Rivers, the coach and president of basketball operations, and general manager Lawrence Frank. The Clippers are focused on retaining key free agents this summer, including Chris Paul. West has been with the Warriors since 2011. The team has won two NBA titles during his time in the Bay Area.

Cleveland takes over AL Central lead with sweep over Twins



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—Lonnie Chisenhall hit two home runs for Cleveland in the second game after Jose Ramirez went deep twice in the opener, helping Cleveland take over first place in the AL Central by sweeping a doubleheader from the Minnesota Twins with 9-3 and 6-2 victories on Saturday.

Austin Jackson hit a solo shot in the nightcap against Twins starter Adalberto Mejia (1-3) in the fourth inning, before Chisenhall homered to put Cleveland in front. Following a 75-minute rain delay, Chisenhall crushed a three-run drive against Tyler Duffey for his 10th home run of the season and a 5-1 lead in the fifth.

Francisco Lindor went deep in the eighth, too, giving the Indians six home runs for the day against a depleted Twins pitching staff that forced rookies into starting roles for the first three games of this pivotal midseason series.

The rain stopped Mike Clevinger's start in the second game after four innings, so reliever Nick Goody (1-1) was credited instead with the win, the first of his career after 56 appearances.

Zach McAllister (1-0) pitched two hitless innings in the first game for the victory. He worked in relief of starter Ryan Merritt, who made his season debut before being sent back to Triple-A. He had a big lead before he even stepped on the mound.

Athletics 5, Yankees 2

In Oakland, California, Ryon Healy went deep twice for his third multihomer game in two weeks and Matt Joyce also hit a long ball as Oakland beat New York.

Joyce reached base five times, Jesse Hahn (3-4) pitched five innings to defeat New York for the first time in his career and Jed Lowrie had an RBI single to keep the A's rolling at home. Oakland has won six of its last eight at the Coliseum, including three straight against the Yankees.

Austin Romine and Brett Gardner drove in runs for New York, which has lost a season-high five straight. The Yankees entered the day with a one-game lead over Boston in the AL East.

Joyce homered leading off the game against Masahiro Tanaka (5-7).

Sean Doolittle retired three batters for his second save.

Nationals 7, Mets 4

In New York, Trea Turner hit a leadoff homer and Washington backed Stephen Strasburg (8-2) with three long balls, beating New York to



Minnesota Twins third baseman Miguel Sano dives for but misses a double hit by the Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez in the first inning of baseball game two of a doubleheader Saturday, June 17, 2017, in Minneapolis.

struck out a career-high eight in 5 2/3 innings.

Edubray Ramos (0-4) relieved Jerad Eickhoff and gave up the first three runs of Arizona's four-run seventh.

Rays 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Chris Archer pitched six strong innings, Daniel Robertson drove in two runs and scored a third, and Tampa Bay bounced back to beat Detroit.

Detroit had won the first two games of the series, outscoring the Rays 18-7.

Archer (5-4) gave up two runs, six hits and a walk, striking out eight. Two relievers finished, with Jesus Colome getting five outs for his 19th save.

Mikie Mahtook led off the Detroit ninth with an infield single and took second on Jose Iglesias's sacrifice, but Colome retired the next two batters.

Michael Fulmer (6-5) allowed three runs on six hits and four walks in 6 2/3 innings. He made his first start since receiving a cortisone shot to reduce inflammation in his pitching shoulder.

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Todd Frazier and Matt Davidson hit consecutive home runs to lead Chicago over Toronto.

Jose Abreu also went deep to help the White Sox win their fourth straight series against the Blue Jays, beating them for the ninth time in the last 10 games.

Mike Pelfrey (3-5) earned his second road win of the season, limiting Toronto to one run and four hits in six innings. He retired 10 straight batters between the second and sixth innings.

David Robertson worked the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman (7-3) gave up six hits and three runs — all on the solo homers — in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five.

Braves 8, Marlins 7, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Brandon Phillips drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning, Matt Adams had four RBIs and Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Miami.

Johan Camargo led off the 10th with a single, advanced on a sacrifice and scored when Phillips lined a ball up the middle off A.J. Ramos (1-3).

Nick Markakis' RBI double in the ninth sent the game into extra innings. Arodys Vizcaino (3-2), the seventh Atlanta pitcher, faced four batters in the 10th to get the win.

stay undefeated at Citi Field this season.

Adam Lind added a two-run shot and Jose Lobaton also went deep for the NL East leaders, who can finish a four-game sweep Sunday afternoon. Washington is 6-0 in Queens this year — part of an impressive 24-12 mark on the road — and has won 12 of 16 at the Mets' home ballpark since the start of last season.

Yoenis Cespedes homered and had four hits for third-place New York, which dropped 11 1/2 games out of first. Seth Lugo (1-1) allowed four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Strasburg (8-2) permitted two runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings, rebounding from his worst start of the season. He struck out five and walked two.

Padres 7, Brewers 5, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Cory Spangenberg and Chase d'Arnaud each hit solo home runs in the 11th inning, lifting San Diego over Milwaukee in yet another slugfest.

The teams have combined for 15 home runs in the first two games of the three-game series. The Padres totaled a season-best five home runs Saturday, including two by Yangervis Solarte and one by Wil Myers, while Milwaukee got a homer each from Orlando Arcia, Eric Thames and Keon Broxton. On Friday night, Thames' game-ending shot in the 10th was the seventh home run of the game.

Spangenberg hit the first pitch from reliever Oliver Drake (2-2) leading off, and two outs later, d'Arnaud followed with his first homer of the season.

Jose Torres (4-2) picked up the win in relief. Phil Maton pitched the 11th for his first

Pirates 4, Cubs 3

In Pittsburgh, Gregory Polanco broke out of a slump with a two-run homer, Andrew McCutchen hit his 12th home run of the season and Pittsburgh edged Chicago.

Ivan Nova (7-4) pitched seven strong innings and Pittsburgh's bullpen made it stand up a night after collapsing late in a 9-5 loss. Felipe Rivero got the final five outs for his third save.

Jake Arrieta (6-5) hit the fifth home run of his career but struggled with his command late. He is winless in his last five starts against the Pirates. Arrieta was removed in the fifth inning following a sequence in which he uncorked two wild pitches and hit a batter.

The defending World Series champion Cubs dipped back below .500 (33-34).

Astros 7, Red Sox 1

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit a solo homer, Carlos Beltran had a two-run shot and three RBIs, and Houston beat Boston.

Altuve led off the third with his homer off the train tracks above the left-center field facade, and Beltran followed three batters later with his ninth home run of the season to put Houston ahead 6-0.

Houston jumped on Boston starter Rick Porcello (3-9) for three runs in the first. Altuve had an RBI double, and Brian McCann and Beltran followed with sacrifice flies.

David Paulino (1-0) allowed one run and three hits with four strikeouts in six innings for his first career win.

Orioles 15, Cardinals 7

In Baltimore, Jonathan Schoop homered twice and drove in four runs, Manny

Machado went deep in a seven-run second inning against Adam Wainwright and Baltimore beat St. Louis.

Adam Jones and Mark Trumbo got Baltimore started with successive first-inning shots, and Schoop finished the long-ball display with drives in the fourth and seventh.

Wade Miley (3-4) picked up his second win since April 14 despite allowing six runs, five earned, in 5 2/3 innings.

Wainwright (7-5) gave up nine runs and seven hits, including three home runs, over 1 2/3 innings — the shortest of his 268 career starts. The nine runs and three homers matched the most he's allowed in any outing.

Dodgers 10, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Yasiel Puig hit two of the Dodgers' four homers, powering Los Angeles to a victory that took the edge off Cincinnati's latest honor for its banned hits king.

Pete Rose unveiled a bronze sculpture of his headfirst slide in front of Great American Ball Park before the game. Thousands of packed-in fans cheered when he said, "Let's get those Reds in high gear."

Instead, the Dodgers flexed their muscle and added to their domination of Cincinnati, beating the Reds for the seventh straight time.

Cody Bellinger had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs. Joc Pederson homered for the second straight game as the Dodgers piled up seven extra-base hits.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (3-6) allowed two runs in five innings for Los Angeles. Asher Wojciechowski (1-1) took the loss.

Rockies 5, Giants 1

In Denver, Kyle Freeland tossed six solid innings, Tony Wolters drove in two runs

and Colorado beat San Francisco again.

The Rockies are 9-1 against San Francisco this season and have won the last eight against the Giants.

Freeland (8-4) pitched with runners on base in every inning but held the Giants to one run and eight hits. The rookie left-hander exited with a 2-1 lead and pumped his fist after striking out pinch-hitter Brandon Belt to end the sixth with a runner on second.

Matt Cain (3-6) lost for the fifth time in six starts.

Rangers 10, Mariners 4

In Arlington, Texas, Mike Napoli hit two home runs, connecting along with Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo in the sixth inning to power Texas past Seattle.

Napoli's two-run drive capped a five-run first that sent the Rangers to their seventh win in eight games. Seattle lost its third in a row.

Martin Perez (3-6) won for the first time since May 18. He left with a 5-4 lead with one out in the sixth after giving up a 463-foot, three-run homer to straightaway center by Mike Zunino.

Yovani Gallardo (3-7) retired the first two batters in the opening inning before giving up five straight hits.

Diamondbacks 5, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run double and also made a key catch, boosting Arizona over Philadelphia for its sixth straight victory.

The Diamondbacks improved to 43-26, matching the best 69-game start in team history.

Jorge De La Rosa (3-1) won in relief of Zack Godley, who

Justin Thomas shoots 63, trails Brian Harma

2017 U.S. OPEN ERIN, Wis. (AP)—Justin Thomas managed to stand out in a U.S. Open where par is going out of style.

All it took was a 9-under 63, the lowest round to par in a major long known as the toughest test in golf. Thomas capped off his record day on the 667-yard 18th hole at Erin Hills with the prettiest 3-wood he ever hit, stopping 8 feet away on a green where some players struggled to land a wedge.

He made the eagle to get his name in the record book Saturday.

The lead, however, belonged to Brian Harman.

Harman closed with two birdies and three tough pars for a 5-under 67 that gave him a one-shot lead at 12-under 204.

"Yeah, 12 under, I'd have about a 10-shot lead in most Opens," he said.

Not this one.

Not even close.

Erin Hills again lacked enough wind to be the stern test the U.S. Open wants, and it showed. There were 18 rounds in the 60s on Saturday. Going into the final round, 42 players were still under par.

"Usually when you shoot even in a U.S. Open and you're one off the lead, you're not six down afterward," J.B. Holmes said.

In the 116 previous U.S. Opens, only six players had ever reached 10-under par or better, never in the same tournament. By the end of a wild and wide-open Saturday, five players were double digits un-



AP
Justin Thomas hits to the 18th green during the third round of the U.S. Open golf tournament Saturday, June 17, 2017, at Erin Hills in Erin, Wis.

der par.

Brooks Koepka made three birdies over his last seven holes for a 68 and joined Thomas one shot out of the lead.

Also at 11 under was Tommy Fleetwood, who was poised to take the lead until his pitch came up short, his next shot went 60 feet down a slope on the back of the 18th green and he turned potential birdie into bogey and settled for a 68.

Rickie Fowler, on the verge of being left behind, rallied with three straight birdies and shot 68. He was 10 under, only two shots behind.

"It's going to be a really cool day for someone tomorrow," Fowler said. "I'm looking forward to my shot at it. I've been there a handful of

times and had some good finishes. But I'm looking forward to getting the job done."

Thomas finished in style, and it had nothing to do with his hot pink pants. He had 310 yards to the hole when he hit 3-wood that could have led to big trouble if he went too far long or left. "Oh gosh, Jimmy, be good," he said to caddie Jimmy Johnson when the ball was in the air, and it was close to perfect.

Thomas poured in the eagle to become the 29th player with a 63 in a major championship.

"The finish was awesome. I'd love to have another one of those," Thomas said.

He might need one at this rate. About all that save Erin Hills from another onslaught was a forecast for the strongest

wind of the week. Regardless of the weather, it didn't take long for the 24-year-old Thomas to understand the significance of his record round.

"That means I'm a part of history," he said. "It means I have a lot better chance to win the tournament than I did when the day started. I felt like I've been playing pretty well all week, and didn't have quite the numbers to show for it. Obviously, today I definitely had something to show for it."

Thomas, a major away from joining the young elite in golf, only added to a year of low numbers. He made an eagle on his final hole at the Sony Open in January to shoot 59, and he went on to break the PGA Tour's 72-hole scoring record.

The U.S. Open didn't seem

to faze him, and he delivered a variety of big shots that led to his sensational finish.

He rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt on No. 5 from the edge of the green that broke so severely that he stood with

his toes facing the hole and rapped the ball toward his left foot. It took a hard turn to the right and rolled in. In the hay left of the 12th fairway, he gouged it out with a 9-iron and watched it roll to 10 feet.

CAROL

From Page 28

gaged in a tough semis match against Japan's Otoha Aoki last Friday. Lee prevailed in the opening set, 6-4, but was denied the sweep when Aoki pulled off a thrilling 7-6 (7) in the second set to bring the game into the deciding third set. Lee went on to play steadier in the homestretch after eking out a 6-4 triumph over the persistent Japanese, who ruled the 2017 Northern Marianas Junior Championships last month.

While Lee went the distance to advance to the finals, the unranked Mohamed took the short route to the championship game. The French stunned the No. 12 seed Erika Matsuda in the other semis game after only two sets, 6-2, 6-0.

Meanwhile, Lee also played in the doubles finals last Friday, but she and New Zealand's Holly Stewart bowed to No. 1 seed Sara Tsukamoto and Aoki, 3-6, 3-6.

With her runner-up finish in the doubles and title win in the singles, Lee gained 45 more world ranking points—30 in the singles and 15 in the doubles. She will leave New Caledonia with 95 points as she got 50 in the first tournament. With the nearly 100 points, the CNMI player is expected to climb a few more notches in the world rankings. She went to New Caledonia ranked No. 287 with 161.25 combined ranking points (135 in singles and 105 in doubles). From New Caledonia, Lee will return to Fiji for a few more tournaments under the ITF Juniors Circuit.

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	28	.576	—
Boston	38	30	.559	1
Tampa Bay	36	35	.507	4½
Baltimore	33	34	.493	5½
Toronto	32	35	.478	6½

Central Division

Cleveland	35	31	.530	—
Minnesota	34	32	.515	1
Kansas City	32	35	.478	3½
Detroit	32	35	.478	3½
Chicago	31	36	.463	4½

West Division

Houston	46	23	.667	—
Texas	34	33	.507	11
Los Angeles	36	36	.500	11½
Seattle	33	37	.471	13½
Oakland	30	38	.441	15½

US OPEN SCORES

Third Round

Brian Harman	67-70-67—204	Matt Kuchar	74-71-70—215
Justin Thomas	73-69-63—205	Branden Grace	72-72-71—215
Brooks Koepka	67-70-68—205	Martin Laird	72-71-72—215
Tommy Fleetwood	67-70-68—205	Whee Kim	73-70-72—215
Rickie Fowler	65-73-68—206	Jonathan Randolph	71-71-73—215
Si Woo Kim	69-70-68—207	Andrew Johnston	69-73-73—215
Patrick Reed	68-75-65—208	Satoshi Kodaira	73-69-73—215
Russell Henley	71-70-67—208	Harris English	71-69-75—215
Charley Hoffman	70-70-68—208	Webb Simpson	74-71-71—216
Bill Haas	72-68-69—209	Rafa Cabrera Bello	72-73-71—216
Brendan Steele	71-69-69—209	Brandon Stone	70-74-72—216
Brandt Snedeker	70-69-70—209	Martin Kaymer	72-69-75—216
Xander Schauffele	66-73-70—209	Ryan Brehm	71-74-72—217
Bernd Wiesberger	69-72-69—210	Kevin Na	68-76-73—217
Hideki Matsuyama	74-65-71—210	Thomas Aiken	71-71-75—217
J.B. Holmes	69-69-72—210	Adam Hadwin	68-74-75—217
Louis Oosthuizen	74-70-68—212	Gary Woodland	72-73-73—218
Trey Mullinax	71-72-69—212	Jordan Niebrugge	73-72-73—218
Eddie Pepperell	72-71-69—212	Shane Lowry	71-74-73—218
Sergio Garcia	70-71-71—212	Stephen Jaeger	71-73-74—218
Chez Reavie	75-65-72—212	Yusaku Miyazato	72-70-76—218
Marc Leishman	68-72-72—212	Jason Kokrak	75-70-74—219
a-Cameron Champ	70-69-73—212	Daniel Summerhays	73-72-74—219
Jamie Lovemark	69-69-74—212	Lee Westwood	69-75-75—219
Paul Casey	66-71-75—212	Keegan Bradley	72-73-75—220
Zach Johnson	71-74-68—213	Jordan Spieth	73-71-76—220
Jim Furyk	70-74-69—213	Kevin Kisner	74-70-76—220
Matt Fitzpatrick	70-73-70—213	Stewart Cink	74-70-76—220
David Lingmerth	73-69-71—213	William McGirt	70-71-79—220
Steve Stricker	73-72-69—214	Talor Gooch	74-71-76—221
Kevin Chappell	74-70-70—214	Ernie Els	70-72-79—221
Michael Putnam	73-70-71—214	Tyler Light	73-72-78—223
a-Scottie Scheffler	69-74-71—214	Kevin Dougherty	71-72-80—223
Jack Maguire	70-73-71—214	Haotong Li	74-70-82—226

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE CRANK'

From Page 28

Li's wayward strikes and dodging his kicks seemed to zap Camacho's energy, giving the Chinese the opportunity to attack "The Crank" more in the third and final round.

The 29-year-old Li went on to score decisive points in the closing minutes of the third round as he hit Camacho with an upper cut and followed it up with another low kick and a strike on the latter's chest. As one of the preliminary bouts in the event wrapped up, Li

got the nod of all three judges, who scored the fight, 29-27, 28-27, and 29-27. Despite the loss in his UFC debut, which he accepted a little over a week after Li's original foe, Jonathan Meunier got injured, Camacho left a good impression in Singapore enough to earn him and Li a bonus of \$50,000 each for delivering the Fight of the Night. The Camacho-Li brawl was one of the only three Fight of the Night duels in the event. The other two was Holly Holm's TKO win (kick) on Bethe Correia in the

runner-up honors after bowing to FSM's Anne Skilling in last Friday's title-deciding game, 3-6, 2-6. Skilling and compatriot Ridianne Wolphagen also got the doubles crown after defeating Gregoire and Panuelo in a thrilling super-tiebreaker game, 6-3, 3-6, 15-13.

Meanwhile, in the U12 team event, the CNMI Boys 1 was perfect in five games to rule the six-squad field.

Gregoire in pulling off another hard-earned victory against the Guam pair, 3-6, 7-5, 11-9.

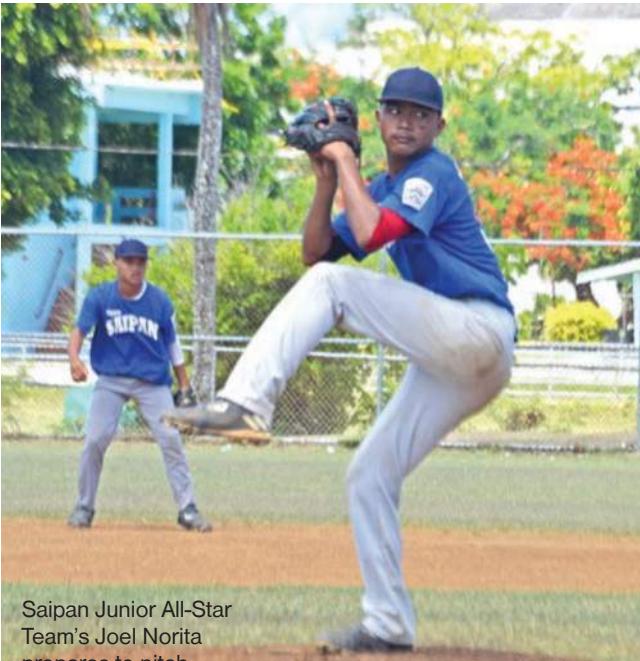
In the girls division, the CNMI Girls 1 and 2 joined champion Palau Girls in the Top 3. Hye Jin Elliot and J.C. Ferrer of CNMI 1 had a 3-1 record in the tournament to take the runner-up honors, while CNMI 2's Helen Kim and Anika Camacho finished with a third-best 2-2 mark.

2017 CNMI District Tournament Junior League

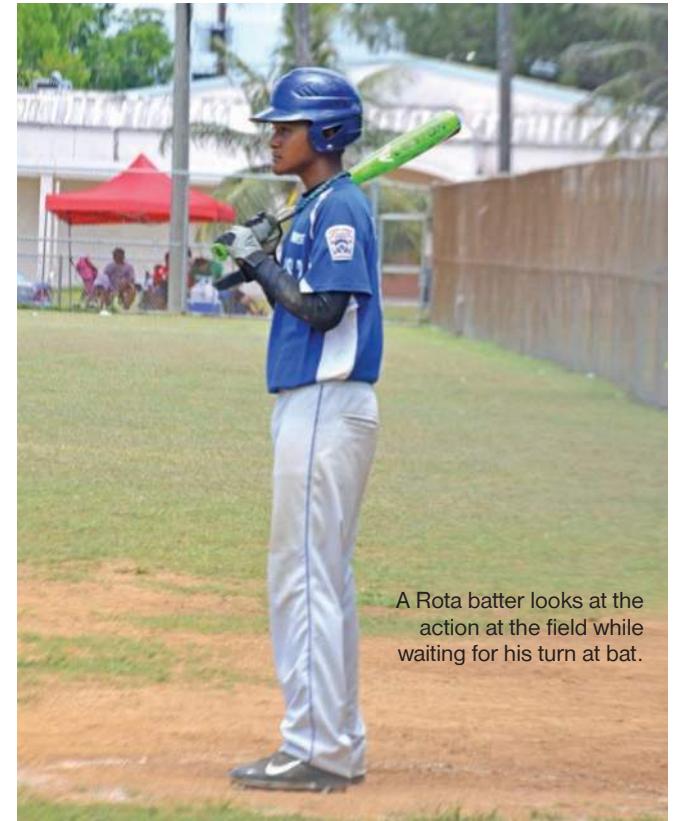
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



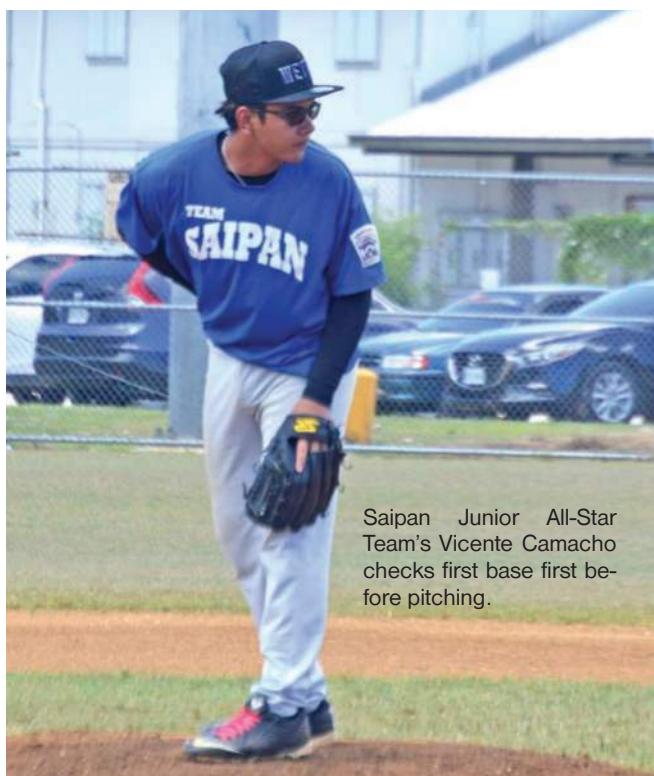
Saipan Junior All-Stars manager Isidoru Camacho talks to his batter during a brief break in their game against Rota in the 2017 CNMI District Tournament held early this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



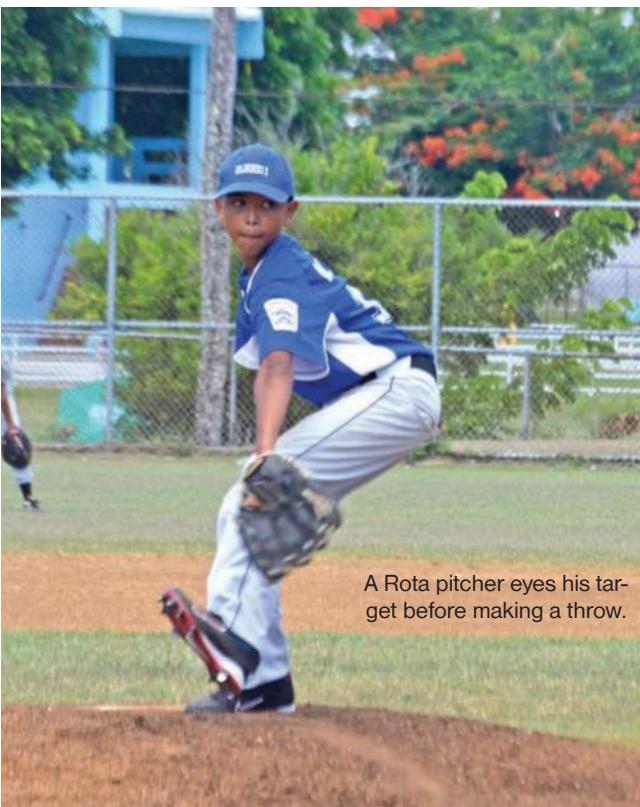
Saipan Junior All-Star Team's Joel Norita prepares to pitch.



A Rota batter looks at the action at the field while waiting for his turn at bat.



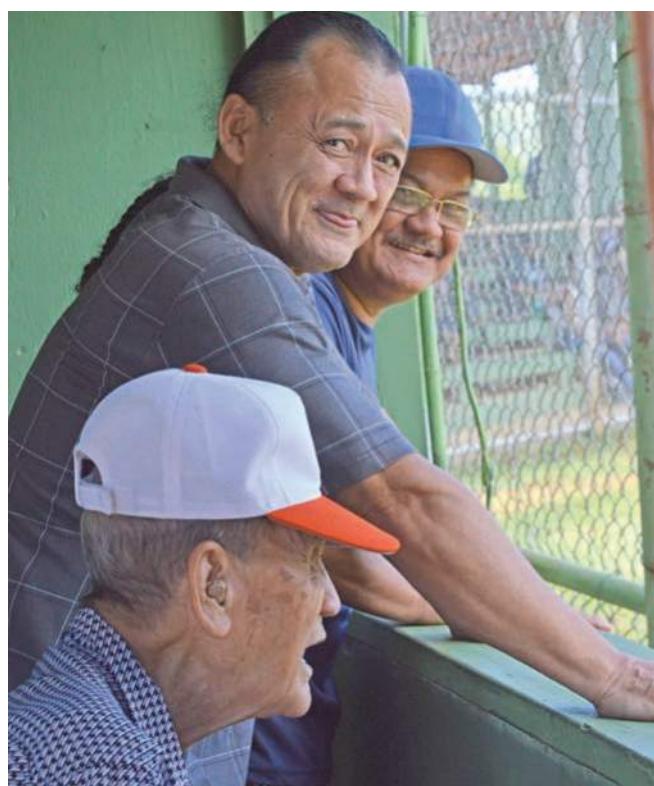
Saipan Junior All-Star Team's Vicente Camacho checks first base first before pitching.



A Rota pitcher eyes his target before making a throw.



A Rota batter ties his shoelaces before heading to the plate to bat.



CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios watches the action in the Junior League division along with two other spectators.



Saipan, left, and Rota players watch the action at home plate.

AP source:
76ers, Celtics
agree on trade
for No. 1 pick

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Saipan Tribune Sports

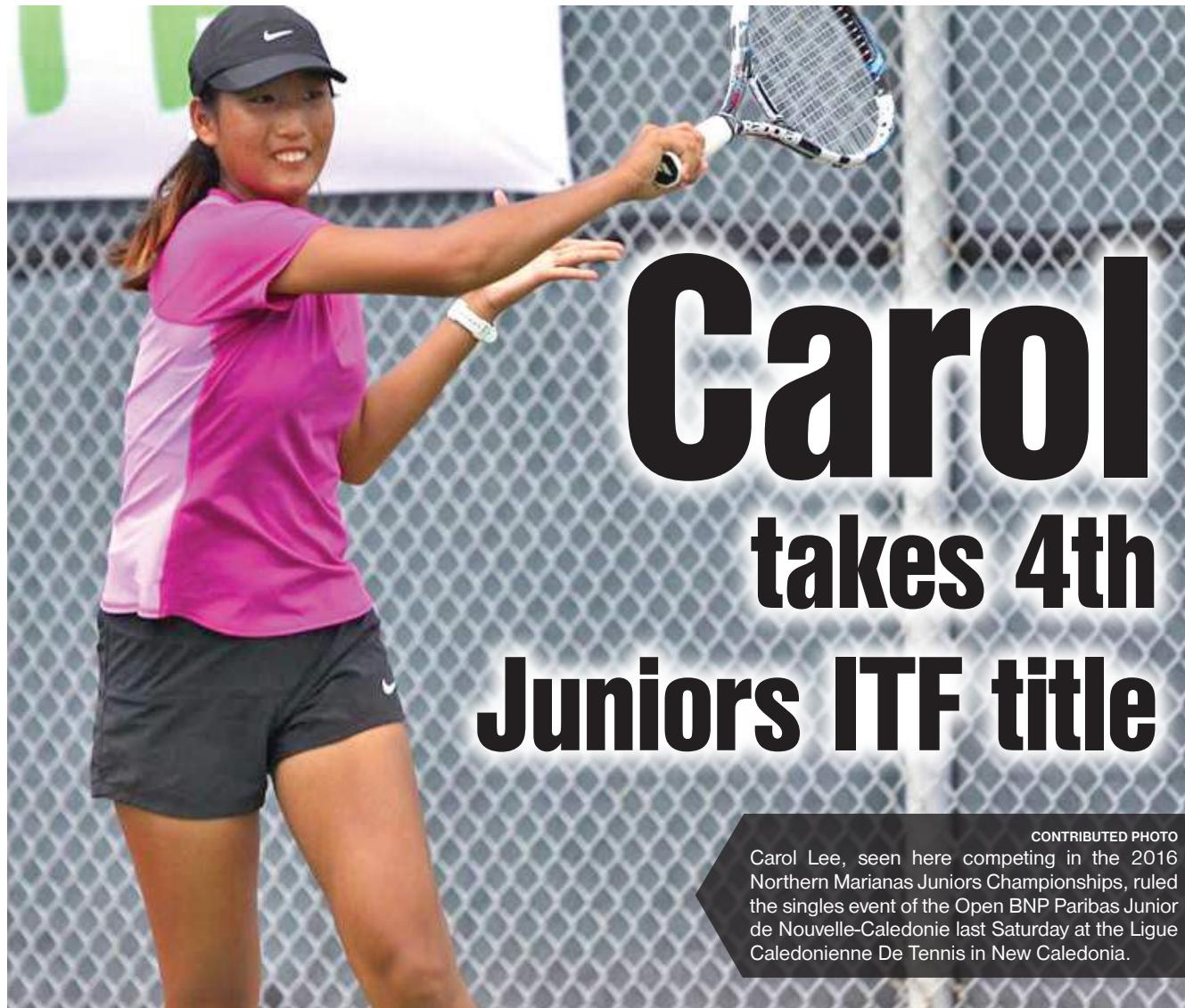
28 MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

Cleveland takes
over AL Central
lead with sweep
over Twins

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Carol takes 4th Juniors ITF title

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here competing in the 2016 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships, ruled the singles event of the Open BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie last Saturday at the Ligue Caledonienne De Tennis in New Caledonia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Carol Lee reassured her might over France's Helena Mohamed to top the singles event of the Open BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie last Saturday at the Ligue Caledonienne De Tennis in New Caledonia.

The CNMI player took only two sets to beat Mohamed in the finals, 6-1, 6-2, and duplicate her straight sets victory (7-5, 6-2) against the Frenchwoman in the New Caledonia ITF Junior 2017. Her triumph in her second tournament in the French territory gave Lee her fourth Juniors ITF championship. The 15-year-old Lee's



other titles came from the RUC Tennis Junior Open (doubles) in Morocco and New Caledonia ITF Junior 2017 (both singles and doubles).

Before easing past Mohamed in the championship game of the Grade 5 tournament, the No. 1 Lee was en-

See CAROL on Page 26

CNMI junior players stand out



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Junior National Team players and their coach Jeff Race pose for a photo at the departure area of Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before heading to Guam for the 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships last week. They returned last Saturday with three singles titles and one each in doubles and team event.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

16-and-under singles championships after pulling off an upset over the No. 1 seed Camden Camacho of Guam in the finals. The No. 2 Ren drew first blood in the battle of the undefeated players, taking the opening set, 6-3, before Camacho fought back in the second, 6-2, to extend the finale. In the deciding third set, the CNMI player regained his bearings and posted a 6-3 triumph.



The Jeff Race-coached squad won the boys and girls 16-and-under singles, girls 16-and-under doubles, boys 14-and-under singles, and boys U12 team event crowns in the tournament that also featured players from Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Michael Ren handed the Commonwealth the boys

bling after being punished by Camacho's powerful strike. The Marianas pride then continued to be aggressive, unloading more punches on Li. Fortunately for Li he survived Camacho's explosive start, as the China Top Team fighter used low kicks to neutralize his foe. Li also managed to take down Camacho with less than a minute left in the five-minute Round 1 to close the gap in scoring.

In the second round, Li kept throwing low kicks on Camacho and also attempted more takedowns, but the latter was able to get out of trouble and traded punches with the former. However, ducking from

See 'THE CRANK' on Page 26

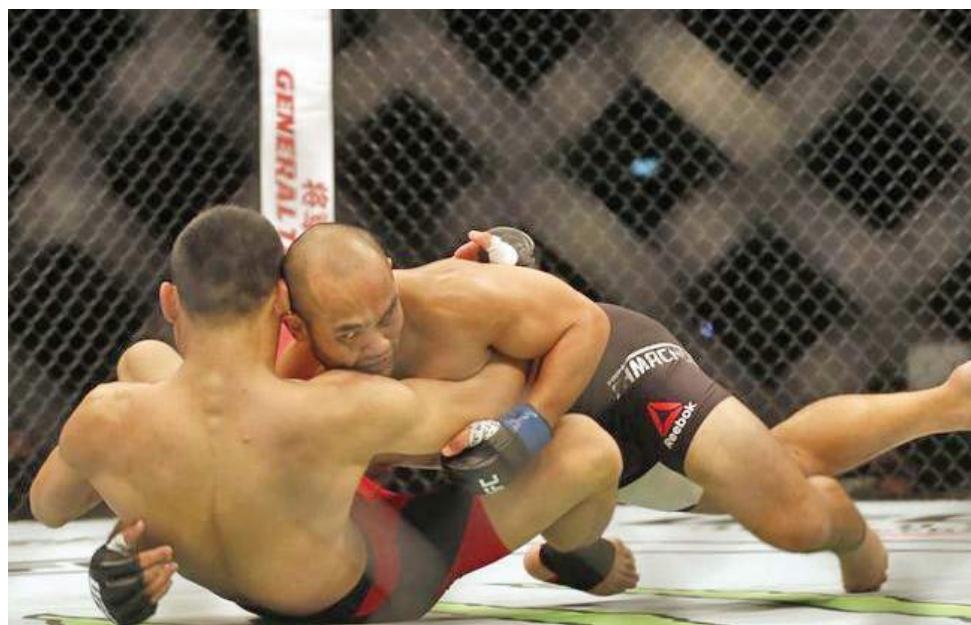
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'The Crank' impresses, gets \$50K bonus

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UFC Frank "The Crank" Camacho introduced himself to UFC Fight Night 111 by unleashing a solid right straight to Jingliang Li before losing the welterweight bout via unanimous decision last Saturday in Singapore.

The debuting Camacho rocked the crowd at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Kallang when he hit Li on the jaw at the 4:08 mark of the first round. The visibly shaken Chinese, nicknamed "The Leech," nearly fell down the canvas before he took refuge at the corner, still wob-



MMAJUNKIE PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, top, grapples with China Top Team's Jingliang Li during their welterweight bout in UFC Fight Night 111 last Saturday in Singapore.